

Nº 3,173

FRIDAY 20 DECEMBER 1996

WEATHER: Cold, wet and windy

(IR45p) 40p

THE TABLOID **Best CDs** 



THE TABLOID Off the piste, onto the streets



COMMENT Polly Toynbee: why the BBC should stand up for US PAGE 19

Sorry (but I still think I'm righ



Photomontage: Jonathan Anstey

The Duke of Edinburgh yesterday apologised for any "offence or distress" used by his suggestion that gun

cluh members were no more cricketers. Duke did not apologise

holding the views that he does, and several public polls ppeared to show that there is conderable support for his standpoint. The controversial comments, which

sparked a torrent of protest from MPs and anti-gun campaigners, were contained in a radio interview broadcast last night. In the interview, the Duke said: "There's no evidence that people who use weapons for sport are any more dangerous than people who use golf cinbs or tennis racquets or cricket bats."

He added: "If a cricketer, for instance, suddenly decided to go into a school and batter a lot of people to death with a cricket bat, which be could do very easily, I mean are you going to ban cricket bats?"

Prince Philip, who yesterday visited Ely cathedral, told BBC radio interviewer Rob Bonnethe understood the depth of public sympathy for the Dun- cent of those who called in agreed with rifles hut handguns.

blane parents' call for a total handgun han, but added: "I'm not sure that the reaction is ... the most rational."

Yesterday morning Buckingham Palace took the unusual step of issuing an apology after anti-gun cam-paigners claimed they were "sickened" and MPs across Westminster accused the the Duke of "blundering" into sensitive political debates.

"His personal views were very much focused in the area of how difficult it is to apply the law sensibly in these dif-ficult situations," said a spokesman. "Prince Philip made absolutely clear in the interview his horror at the Dunhlane incident and his sympathy for the bereaved." But it was noticeable, however, that the Duke did not actually retract his views.

His commeots about handguns won

Out of touch. Paul Vallely,

Analysis, page 18

Of almost 10,000 GMTV viewers who phoned the programme's telephone poll hotline yesterday morning, 75 per

cent said the Prince was right.

ban on handguns was an "over-reac-tion" to Dunblane, while 32 per cent disagreed. A total of 2,784 people supported his views, while 1,304 did not. Those figures indicated a shift in public opinion since last October when an NOP poll found 72 per cent supported a ban.

A survey of 150 backbenchers published yesterday by the Harris Research Centre found almost half of all Tory backbenchers were opposed to any change in handgun laws.

That contrasted sharply with Labour MPs - 91 per cent of whom wanted a complete ban, 4 per cent of whom favoured the ban on weapons over .22 and 3 per cent of whom want-ed no change in the law at all. Overall, 45 per cent of MPs of all parties wanted a total han, 24 per cent a ban oo over .22s and 26 per cent wanted to leave the law unchanged,

Eileen Harrild, the gym teacher who was the first to be shot by Thomas Hamilton, described the Duke's remarks as very insensitive, crass and offensive.

"I am glad he has apologised but I would like him to take back what he has said and would like to think he has thought more deeply and come to a different conclusion about handguns. We In a later BBC Radio 5 poll, 68 per are not talking about shotguns or



him to retract what he said and come out and say he would be in favour of

ther surgery for the wounds she suf-fered on her arm. "I think some people forget there are people who were injured in the gym struggling to come to terms with their injuries. There are people who have to live with the conse-

quences of that day."
She said if Hamilton had beeo armed with a cricket hat jostead of handguns, the adults in the gym would have had a hetter chance of deflect-

Sir David Steel, the former Liberal leader, said yesterday in Beverley, east Yorkshire: "The Duke of Edinhurgh's problem is that he was born with a silver foot

# Ministers reject advice

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

A Europe-wide ban on the use of spinal cord and spleen from sheep and goats in the human food chain, proposed by scientific advisers, has been rejected by European agriculture ministers.

The extended ban on the waste from sheep and goats was put to ministers by the European Commission under a special high-speed emergency procedure, oo advice from World Health Organisation experts and the European Union's ently without causing CJD in Scientific Veterinary Committee. A report from the all-party

Commons European Legislatinn Committee said yesterday: "The Commissioo argues that because it may be possible for sheep to be infected by BSE [Bovine Spongiform En- spleen are the most infective tis- goats. cephalopathy], producing a sues. The Government intro-

disease clinically indistinguishable from scrapic, action should be taken to prohibit tissues which are likely to cootain the BSE agent to enter any food chaio (human or animal)."

The Government admitted in March that a number of Britons had died from a ocw form of the fatal Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) apparently due to expo-sure to BSE - almost certainly by eating infected food. So far 15 cases have been recorded.

Although scrapie has existed in sheep for centuries, apparpeople, scientists have been increasingly worried that BSE is a more dangerous form of the disease, and that if it spread to sheep then they could, in turn, infect people.

The brains, spinal cords and



Douglas Hogg: Euro plans go further than UK law

duced measures to remove cattle hrains and spines from the food chain in 1989. But this was not introduced for sheep or

ture Minister, told the Commons committee that the European proposal went heyond current UK legislation, and would require "the removal of spinal cord from sheep and goats over 12 months ... and of spleen from all sheep and goats. It would thus occessitate changes in the way these animals are handled at slaughter

and also in trading practices."
The Commons committee then added: "Although the recovery of mechanically-recovered meat from cattle has already been prohibited in the UK, the proposal, if adopted, would prevent plants currently producing mechanically-recovered meat from the vertebral columns of sheep and goats from continuing with this practice."

In the event agriculture min-

how the UK cast its vote.

Mr Hogg banned the use of sheep and goat heads in the production of food for human consumption oo 15 September, hat the vertebral columns of sheep and goats are used in the production of "mechanically-recovered meat". This is blasted off the bones of carcasses, and is widely used in cheap burgers,

sausages, pasties, pies and soups. The defeat in Brussels might have been expected, because only the UK, France, Ireland. Portugal and the Netherlands -five out of the EU's 15 members - impose curbs on the use of "specified risk materials", like the head and spinal cord, from

Mr Hogg told the Commons in a written reply on Wednesday oats. isters decided in Brussels on night that the commission plan

Tuesday to reject the Commishad been rejected. "The coun-

sion proposal. It is not known cil considered, but failed to agree on, a proposal banning the use of specified risk materials in

the manufacture of animal feed and food-stuffs," he said. He did oot reveal that ministers had heen considering a ban on the use of sheep and goat spinal cord and spicen for human "food-stuffs".

The commission has been asked to make "further proposals in this area" after taking

further advice from the EU Scientific Veterinary Committee. The Ministry of Agriculture's latest progress report on BSE said that the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee had urged ministers to consider the possibility of BSE in sheep, and "consider removing the hrains from all sbeep and goats over six months of age at slaughter." That pro-posal was enacted in September.

women to pretend to be men, at

east in some areas of the Net,

in order to avoid ceaseless

propositioning. However, this is the first recorded case in which

such pretence has been carried

through to the point of mar-

riage.

By December last year, they

had spent two nights together

in a hotel room. It is not clear

Siege goes on President Alberto Fujimori was desperately trying to find a so-lution to the siege in the Japan-ese ambassador's resideoce in Lima as 490 hostages entered their third night of capture by left-wing guerrillas. Page 10

The Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, defeated the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, in a last attempt to change the Government's wait and see policy on the single European cur-

Bomb lorry sought Police were scouring London for

a lorry feared to have brought bomb-making equipment to the city. Police urged people to he on their guard against Christmas

### CONTENTS

The Broadsheet

Business & City ....20-22 Comment ........17-19 Foreign News . . . . . 10-14 Law Report . . . . . . . . . . . . . 16 Leading Articles . . . . . 17 Obituaries .........16 Sport ......25-28

The Tabloid Classical .........16-1B John Lyttle ...........3 Pop/rock ......10-15 Radio & TV ......23,24 

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# Railtrack rebuked Net wedlock ends for underspending in web of intrigue

Christian Wolmar Westminster Correspondent

Railtrack has been sharply rebuked by the Rail Regulator, so by the Regulator and earli-John Swift, for failing to spend £333m it has been giveo by the Government for investment on the first six months of this financial year it only spent £193m Britain's crumhling railways.

Mr Swift said, in a letter to the anti-privatisation group. Save Our Railways, that Railtrack's "current level of under- the same period this year. spend is wholly unacceptable to me and I expect prompt action to remedy this". He is demanding that Railtrack sets out its investment programme to "show clearly and unequivocally whether or oot Railtrack is delivering [its] investment pro-

Railtrack's underspend in its first two and a half years of existence amounts to 25 per cent of the amount it should have in-



prove the rail network. Railtrack has consistently failed to spend the amount it is required to do er this month it revealed that in compared with the £259m it had promised. Yet, profits jumped from £111m in the six months

to 1 October 1995 to £145m in Save our Railways said the company put profits before investment. "For two years, Railtrack has brokeo the Reg-ulator's rules oo how much money should he spent oo tall maintenance. Now Railtrack will have to increase spending radically on the rail octwork or risk the Regulator taking ac-

non," said Jooathan Bray, coordinator of the campaign. According to an industry source. Railtrack's capacity to invest has been inhibited by the fact that it has had three reorganisations since its creation in April 1994 and earlier this week

announced yet another one.

vested to maintain and im- sale throughout the privatisation process but ministers said that safeguards were in place. However, Mr Swift told The

Independent last night that the role of a regulator "was not only to wield statutory powers but to carry on a regular dialogue with Railtrack". In fact, Mr Swift's powers are circumscribed. Railtrack has a seveoyear contract - oegotiated with Mr Swift - which determines the level of its income from train operators and that canoot be ehanged until 2001.

Mr Swift's most serious sanction would be to refer Railtrack to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission but he is only likely to do this if it continued to fail to invest over a long period. A spokesman for Railtrack

said the company had spent £100m more in the first six month of this financial year than in 1995, but he accepted that targets had not been met. "We come from a culture where it has been difficult to spend huge sums of money because of the annual Treasury restrictions. The spectre of underinvestment by a privatised Railtrack was raised by opponents of the variation our spending requirements."

There is also the oeed for our suppliers to develop to match our spending requirements."

was nothing that gave my client and other people pause," he said. Groves told Ms Hunter

Andrew Brown Religious Affairs Correspondent

Margaret Anne Hunter had been married for four months to a man she had met over the Internet before she noticed be was a woman. The crucial cine that alerted

the West Virginian woman that all was not as she had supposed with her husband, came when "his" mother rang and asked to speak to "Holly Anne" and not to the Thorne Wesley Jameson Groves she thought she had married.

Now she is sming her spouse for \$575,000 in West Virginia, where the conple were married last year. As well as the fraud she charges him with, she also wants compensation for all the money she spent on food, transportation and telephone calls during the relationship.

and personal history. There

According to her lawyer, Seth Guggenheim, Ms Hunter had every reason to be deceived. believed him. "Holly had such credible and detailed explanations, excuses,

Lotin Wheeles

that he was suffering from Aids, and that the heavy bandages, which covered his chest at all times when he undressed. were to heal wounds he had sustained in a car crash, rather than to conceal his hreasts. She

The couple met electronically in the autumn of 1995. It is common for men to pretend to be women on the Internet for reasons ranging from curiosity to obscure sexual gratifica-

what transpired, but afterwards Ms Groves proposed marriage, and Ms Hunter, her suit claims, agreed "out of compassion and love" They were married last winter in a hatel in front of 60 rel-

atives of bride. No one from the purported groom's family attended the wedding; and though Ms Groves claimed to have Aids, "he" never saw any doctors for the condition. Contacted by a news agency, Ms Groves' mother, who had unvittingly exposed her daughter's identity, refused to comment.

Ms Hunter blamed the whole thing on the Internet, which she nn Innger uses. "Computer users need to be increasingly careful with whom they speak."

significant shorts

# Bad blood fails to deter royal passion

The Duke of Edinburgh has always found it easy to reconcile his love of blood sports with his position as president of the conservation charity, the Worldwide Fund for Nature.

As apparently, has the char-ity itself. "Anything that he does in his private capacity is bevond the sphere of our relationship with him," said a spokesman, Javier Arreaza, from the headquarters in Switzerland yesterday.

Anything? "His relationship

March or 10 April.

ing a single currency.

of the next Parliament.

more than 100 Tory MPs to fight

on personal manifestos, reject-

was seen by Euro-sceptic Tory MPs as a final defeat for their

campaign to force the Chan-

cellor to rule out entry into the single currency for the lifetime

Mr Clarke agreed to return

in the New Year with a further

The sethack for Mr Howard

with us has been very good for bits, bares, wild ducks, snipe, conservation. We cannot real-

ly begin to hypothesise." Not that much hypothesis is necessary. Shooting is a long-established favourite pastime of the Royal Family and Prince Philip's total "bag" over the past 30 years stretches over continents, species and runs into mind-boggling numbers.

Figures compiled from press reports by the anti-bloodsports lobby suggest that in Britain alone he has shot stag, roe, rab-

Prince reconciles longstanding enthusiasm with role for nature charity

woodcock, teal, pigeons and partridges and pheasant num-bering at least 30,000.

Prince Philip especially enjoys shooting wild boar on the es-tates of friends in Germany. On one occasion he and Prince Charles are said to have killed 50 wild boar in a single day.

He frequently invites sporting friends to the Royal Family's 20,000-acre Norfolk estate at Sandringham. In 1993, out shooting for up to four days a -a type of mountain sheep.

stay, he hit his target of 10,000 pheasants. His shooting parties are estimated to have killed about 150,000 pheasants over the last two decades.

The Prince rarely listens to criticisms of his passion for shooting. In 1961, despite protests from British and Indian politicians, Philip went ahead with an Indian tiger shoot. On that trip he also killed a crocodile and six urials

Police question fiancée

of road rage victim

pressure and given up big-game unting, Prince Philip continues to defend his love of blood sports and has frequently aimed that he is culling and

not killing the animals. But while the Royal Family is prepared to consider change in many areas, its enthusiasm for blood sports remains as much a part of royal life as corgis, speeches and divorce.

The Queen often accompanies the Duke on pheasant shoots. Charles and his sister, the Princess Royal, have organised competitions in which they lead rival shooting parties.

And it seems the Royal pas-sion will not dim with a new generation. Prince William is said to prefer shooting to any other sport, while Prince Andrew took Beatrice on a shoot when

In October the Duke provoked an outcry by declaring shooting "an intelligent leisure activity" for children. He was backing a new book teaching novices about gun handling.

# E. coli claims

The Scottish E. coli outbreal claimed two more victims yes-

The figure of 404 was un-changed from the day before,

# deaths

terday, taking the total number of dead to 15.

It brings to eight the number of pensioners who have died af-ter being infected with the bug at a church lunch in Wishaw Lanarkshire, a month ago. The outbreak is now the world's second worst, coming after an epidemic in Canada in 1985 which killed 19 people.

The total number of suspected cases across central Scotland now stands at 404, of which 250 have been confirmed.

according to health board officials, "The increase of 15 cases does not mean there is a fresh outbreak," one official said. "It simply means test results have come through from the Reference Laboratory in Aberdeen."

The two latest victims died on Wednesday night at Monklands District General Hospital. One was named as Sarah Cameron, 78, from Wishaw, whose fami-ly confirmed that she had been among a group of pensioners who attended a lunch at Wishaw Old Parish Church on 17 November, where allegedly contaminated pies made by John M Barr & Son were served. The second of the two latest victims, a 78-year-old man, was not named.

Health officials insisted the outbreak was diminishing in spite of announcing that tests had led to the confirmation of another 15 cases of infection

Shortly after the deaths were announced, Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, criticised the level of funding for research into E. coli in Scotland. "The total Scottish Office funding in E.coli 0157 over a six-year period has been £500,000." be said. "That is balf of one week's share of the Photograph: PA | National Lottery jackpot."

# two new

watch trawlers Trawlers are to be

Christian Wolmar

Lobbyist's

companies to

be wound up

Companies run by Ian Greer,

the lobbyist at the centre of

the Neil Hamilton cash-for-

Ian Greet Associates was

one of the largest lobbying groups and Mr Greer

boasted of being the best-counceted lobbyist in the Tory party. Its clients have included British Airways, British Gas, Carlton TV,

Peter Carter Ruck and

partners, Pall Mail, Thames

Water and Philip Morris.

However, when the libel case brought by Mr Greer

against the Guardian collapsed in October because Mr Greer and Mr Hamilton

withdrew, many of his clients

left. A creditors' meeting will be held on 7 January.

Satellite will

questions affair are being

wound up.

electronically tagged to curb illegal catches and talt the chronic depletion of fish stocks, EU ministers agreed

last night. From June 1998 spy-in-the-sky satellite monitoring will be compulsory for boats over 24 metres fishing on the high seas and industrial trawlers. The tracking devices are deeply unpopular with fishermen but Britain backed the plan in the interests of conservation. Spain; whose fleet is most often accused of illegal fishing, opposed it but was out-voted. Officials sought big quota cuts to protect stocks. Katherine

### Lottery £11m goes pop

Britain's first pop music centre has been given £11m of Arts Council lottery, the fourth largest award for a project outside London. It will be built in Sheffield and

open by 1998.

A model of the futuristic building was unveiled by Russell Senior and Nick Banks of Pulp in a Sheffield nightclub. At least 400,000 visitors a year are expected.

### Minister joins the exodus

The trade minister Anthony Nelson joined other bright middle-rank ministers, including Stephen Norris, Richard Needham, and Tim Eggar, who have decided to stand down from Parliament at the next election.

A former merchant banker, he has been MP for the safe seat of Chichester since 1974, and his departure will start another selection stampede by those MPs who have been displaced by constituency boundary changes. Mr Nelson, 48, said that "for family and personal reasons, I have decided to

turn my energies to something new". His wife, Caroline, a cordon hleu cook, is reported to have multiple sclerosis. Anthony Bevins

### Health chiefs defy charter

A health authority is threatening to break the Patient's Charter by delaying operations for more than 18 months to make ends meet, a knife 11 times into his chest leaked memorandum shows. and neck, while his hurrified

The internal memorandum friend looked on. from Hammersmith Hospitals Trust says Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth health authority "do not want any of their non-clinically urgent patients to be admitted until further notice, even where this results in patients waiting in excess of 18 months".

Chris Smith, shadow health secretary, said: "Patients all over London and the Home Counties are now going to have to wait until next spring for treatment because of the madness of the internal market the Tories have imposed." Colin Brown

### Al-Fayed will give money to pro-life party

Mohammed al-Fayed has promised to contribute money to a new anti-abortion party which plans to field 50 candidates in the general

The Egyptian-born conner of Harrods, who has four children, is a strong believer in family values and has given money to at least one

Christian organisation.
The new Pro-Life Alliance Party, founded by Bruno Quintavalle, 25, wants to raise enough money and find enough candidates to carn a party political broadcast on television. It will put candidates up against high-profile figures who are pro-choice, such as Virginia Bottomley, Sir Nicholas Lyell or Marjorie Mowlam, if they have no pro-life opponent

standing in their seats.

A spokesman for Mr Payed said he did not know how much money he would give, but that he "would not argue" with suggestions that it was a five-figure sum. Fran Abrams

### Major has the last laugh

John Major is one of six candidates nominated for the BBC Radio 4 Today programme's News Personality of the Year, from which Tony Blair was excluded over claims of attempts to rig the poll. The winner will be announced on Boxing Day.

### Tax-case man is cleared

A businessman was cleared of corruptly providing a holiday for the Inland Revenue inspector Michael Allcock in return for tax

A judge at the Old Bailey ordered a jury to acquit David Shamoon, 66, of West Kensington, Loodon. The judge also ruled that

two charges of corruption against Allcock, 47, of Colchester, Essex, were to be dropped but he still faces 11 other charges.

### Care worker abused son

A former care assistant at a childreo's bome in Northern Ireland was jailed for nine years for sexually abusing his

eight-year-old son. Originally, be bad denied committing 15 acts of buggery, but after the boy gave evidence and was crossexamined via a video link-up with Londonderry Crown Court, the man changed his plea to guilty. The offences occurred at the man's flat in the Creggan area of Derry.

### Ouija killer sent to Broadmoor

A Devil worshipper who stabbed a 15-year-old boy to death after a Ouija board spelled out the word "kill" was ordered to be detained indefinitely in Broadmoor. Michael McCallum, 20,

turned his bedroom Walworth, south east London, into a shrine to the Devil where he lured Michael Earridge and his friend Stephen Curran, also 15, the Old Bailey heard.

It ended with McCallum sitting astride Earridge and plunging a foot-long combat

### Pension fund inquiry refused

The Government rejected a Labour demand for an independent inquiry into the 'scandal" of the British Rail pension fund, from which a £500m surplus is being given to the new private companies. Viscount Goschen insisted in the Lords that there was "no scandal whatsoever" and there were "categoric protections for pensioners.

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# forced to toe line on euro tillo does not say much these days," said one former minister.

Chief Political Correspondent John Redwood, the champi-The Chancellor, Kenneth on of the Tory right, yesterday Clarke, yesterday defeated said the single currency prepa-Michael Howard, the Home rations were causing unem-Secretary, in a last-ditch attempt ployment across Europe and the to change the Government's "wait-and-see" policy over the criteria were being fudged. He called on the Cabinet to show single European currency beunity: "It is most important that the Cabinet speaks with one forc the election. The Cabinet decided to stick voice, and that there are no stoto its existing policy un the sinries of splits or rows."

Howard

gle currency at a meeting ehair-A senior Conservative source said: "They had a discussion about the election strategy and then remained in political ses-sion to discuss the Chancellor's ed by John Major to review the Tories' strategy for the election. now expected to he on 20 paper and EMU. The Cabinet The decision means it is highly unlikely that any change in the policy will be made before the confirmed the present negotiate-and-decide strategy. election, in spite of plans by

"It was agreed that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would hring forward a paper explor-ing the basis on which the Government would judge those criteria at the right time."

The meeting followed re-ports that Mr Howard had defeated the Chancellor when be won Cabinet backing for him to present a paper to the Cabinet on the single currency criteria. Hopes were raised among the Euro-sceptics that the his critics would ambush Mr Clarke,

report setting out the basis on which the Government will judge the coovergence criteria who had made clear he would for the single currency. That be against entry into the single could enable Mr Howard and curreocy if the convergence other Euro-sceptic ministers to rally in the New Year, but the Euro-sceptic Tory MPs said the prospects for a policy change French government's use of were discounted at Westminster. public sector pensions to low-"As far as the Cahinet is con-crits debts was evideoce of the cerned, it's all over now," said criteria being fudged. The Treaone leading Euro-sceptic. Mr sury said it would be after the Howard failed to gain support election, in late 1997, before it

questioning the girlfriend of the alleged 'road

rage' victim Lee Harvey. Redditch police arrested Tracie Andrews, 27, pictured, two weeks ago in connection around the Cahinet from oth-er Euro-sceptics. "Michael Por-Hamish McRae, page 19 with the death of her fiancé but had been unable to interview her in connection with with the death of her fiance but had been

country lane close to the couple's home in

Mr Harvey, 25, died from multiple stab wounds on 1 December in an isolated the Worcestershire village of Alvechurch.

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PAGEONE

# IRA lorry alert raises fears of London bombing

Patricia Wynn Davies

Police were scouring London vesterday for a lorry feared to have transported bomb-making equipment to the capital after Scotland Yard disclosed that 1RA terrorists have been using n vehicle yard in the city.

Commander John Grieve, head of the anti-terrorist branch, issued an appeal for information about the 7.5 tonne Fard Iveco lorry, which the 1RA might have used to bring bomb components to the main-

The appeal follows a search

nn Monday this week of a

north-west London lorry yard, which Commander Grieve said had been "clearly used by the Provisional IRA.\*

The vehicle, white with blue curtain sides, probably had a 1986 or 1987 registration plate (C, D or E), has red bars under the platform and a red bumper,

and bears the remnants of fad-

ed sign writing on the cab Both Commander Grieve and the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Paul Condon, urged people in London to be on their guard against a pos-sible Christmas and New Year

bombing campaign by the IRA. Sir Panl said his force remained on a high state of alert for a full range of possible IRA strikes, including bombings and ineendiary attacks on stores during Christmas and the Jannary sales.



Target vehicle: An electronic Image of the Iveco lorry

Commander Grieve said the Ford lorry had been in the north London area earlier this suspecting owner. No explosives year. Scotland Yard issued a or firearms had been found at computer-generated image of the vehicle.

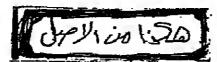
"We believe the lorry was used at some stage to transport bomb-making equipment, pos-sibly innocently." Commander Grieve said. "On the other hand, it may be part of the terrorists' transport.

The search of the lorry yard was carried out after informawas carried out after informa-tion from the public and with bought or hired it recently o the co-operation of its owners. Commander Grieve appealed for information from anyone who thought they had seen the lorry since February but said be was particularly interested in its movements in June and July.

which police believe is being used by the IRA He said the lorry might have been hired or lent out by an unthe lorry yard, and there were

> "We are appealing to mem-bers of the public to help us trace this lorry. It is communities that defeat terrorism and this is a task everyone can help us with," Commander Grieve He appealed to anyone wh

seen it parked to ring the fre and confidential Anti-Terroris Branch hotline on 0800 789321 "It is by making London a hostile and environment as pos sible that we have the bes chance of success," Sir Paul said.



# Frankincense, myrrh and compromise; the path to a happy Christmas for schools



When the pupils are of many faiths, celebrating religious festivals means keeping a careful balance

Lucy Ward Education correspondent

In primary school halls up and down the country, Mary and Joseph will find shelter et the inn. In one Bradford school, as in many others in Britain's multi-ethnic cities, the stars of this year's oativity play will be

Lilycroft First School, where all but two of the 400 pupils are Muslim, is typical in adapting the celebrations of the Christian calendar to suit its young population, "Away in a Manger and other carols will be sung, complete with references to the birth of Jesus, but references to the Christ child as the Son of God will he omitted to avoid conflict with Islamic beliefs.

Similar compromises have been worked out by many schools with a mix of faiths to preveot the kind of incident which marred a Birmingham

secondary school's rehearsal. Washwood Heath Secondary, which is 60 per cent Asian, yesterday launched an internal investigation after Israr Khan, a



Nativity scene: Mary, Joseph and Jesus will be portrayed in many mixed-faith schools. Top left, Israr Khan, who disrupted a school rehearsal Main photograph; Barry Lewis/Network

your God?", prompting some to reply "Allah" and boo the main-

white choir. Birmingham education authority said that Mr Khan stayed at home yesterday "by mutual consent,", but the carol concert on Wednesday went ahead as planned. The city council yesterday insisted that the incident should not be allowed to detract from Christmas celebrations in Birmingham's 500 schools

But the teacher's outburst rekindled the debate over schools' attempts to mark religious festivities, with traditionalists of both Islamic and Christian faiths claiming that pupils should not be forced to take part to celebrations of be-

liefs they did not share. Professor Robert Jackson, director of the religious and education research unit at Warwick University, believes such maths (eacher, leapt from his seat and shouted to pupils of all faiths are suchools grow increasingly sen-watching the rehearsal "Who is date in the Christian calendar". sitive to the best means of bal-

ancing a respect for the faiths of pupils and parents with a desire to promote understanding of other cultures.

"Many would treat these issues very, very carefully indeed. That is not to say they would decide not to touch them at all, bot it would be a process of conversation with the parentteacher association, parent govemors and others in order to win the confidence of people."

lines and requirements covering religious education and collective worship, Much depends on the contribution of the local authority in offering advice,

Religious education specialist Professor John Hull, of Birmingham University, suggests that most schools find their own way through the faith minefield with considerable success. The mistake made by many traditionalist commenta-

and the enthusiasm of individ-

ual heads and teachers.

cred worship practised in a church, mosque or synagogue.

"In schools, pupils, parents and teachers are collected together acknowledging their differences. They never have a service that purports to represent the worship of all these people," he said.

The key for schools aiming to involve all children is to keep the emphasis on education, not worship. The law requires that tors, be believes, is to confuse religious teaching must not m-

the collective worship schools doctrinate, allowing schools to must offer with the kind of safrom Passover and Eid to Diwali and Ramadan without crossing the line into active celebration.

David Parker, head of Lilycroft First School, has consulted widely with parents over religious education and worship. "Once parents realised we were not threatening to subvert anything, they were very supportive. If they trust that you are not undermining their faith then the problems doo't exist."

Leading article, page 17



# Jealousy plunges Gulf veterans into civil war

Just when Britain's Gulf War veterans have the Ministry of Defence on the run, they are being laid low by a new enemy. A noxious cloud of suspicion, jealousy and mistrust has descended on the soldiers, drawing them into battle, this time

to fight with each other. The in-fighting has led to a succession of top-level sackings and resignations, with members of the two Gulf veterans' associations at loggerheads, accusing each other of incompetence

and poaching members. "For us to be diverting our energies into all this internal wrangling cannot be good," said one vet. "It's just what the MoD want."

Much of the jealousy surrounds one family, which has established itself at the huh of the veterans campaign for treatment and compensation. Ian Hill, the chairman of the

National Guif Veterans and Families Association (NGV-FA), served in the war for under a week but was exposed to amixture of drugs designed to protect him from Iraqi ehemical attack. He became so ill that he had to be flown home.

He has become the most high-profile of Britain's Gulf veterans, campaigning tirelessly, but he is now seriously unwell. He has repeatedly warned that he has only months

Hill uses the title "Major-Chevalier", which he acquired from the Polish order of St Stanislaus, and his wife Carole, a nurse, uses the title of Dame from the same source.

Next month, Major Hill is due to sail to America to become the first British veteran to be treated in a programme sponsored by the Royal British Legion and other military char-

Dame Carole is a member of the NGVFA executive committee, although she did not serve in the Gulf. Neither did her daughter Dehhie and Ian's brother David, who are also on the committee which meets at the Hills' family home.

In recent weeks, the NGV-FA committee has fired its vice-chairman and treasurer



Divided front: Ian Hill, a Gulf War veteran and his wife Carole, at their home in Lymm Photograph: Martin Rickett

dence. Several regional helpers have also been dispensed with and a succession of regional coordinators have resigned in

Beo Gunn, the sacked treasurer, said; "They said I was not Tony Flint, an NGVFA com-

following votes of no-confi- charitable arm of the organisation. Phil Sherwood, 37, a regional co-ordinator, said be felt "disgusted" by the sackings. "They were two people that I felt I could trust," he said.

Others took a contrary view. doing my job as treasurer. The mittee member who supported

It has turned into a family circus. I was vice-chairman - supposedly number two - but I was kept in the dark

sacked as NGVFA vice-chairman after speaking out in support of Mr Gunn. He said: "It's incredible. It has turned into a family circus. I was vice-chairman and supposedly number two hut I was kept in the dark."

Both men now expect to be sacked from the NGVFA Benevolent Association, the

problem was that I was and they didn't like it." Andy Hagan was surer was over zealous. "He was querying stuff that there was no need to query."
Major Hill, who said he was

not interested in politics, only helping the veterans, accused Mr Gunn of being involved in a "power-struggle" to move the association from its Manchester base to his home of Not-

is the relationship between the NGVFA and the Newcastlebased Gulf Veterans' Association (GVA) which was set up a year earlier in 1993.

In recent weeks nearly 400 GVA members have received letters at home from Eddie Blench a former GVA chairman who is now a member of the NGVFA, asking them to swap allegiance. Larry Cammock, 58, the

treasurer of the GVA, said: "I am extremely disappointed by it. At the end of the day we are all after the same cause; to find out what's wrong with our lads and how to treat it." He admitted that the GVA had problems in staffing its office. This week, Carole Hill said

the GVA no longer existed and that she was seeking to have its helpline diverted to the NGVFA. "We have taken over the GVA completely now," she Some 1,200 Gulf War veter-

ans are pursuing legal cases against the MoD seeking compensation for the illnesses they suffered after returning from the conflict Soldiers were left exhausted and depressed, often with breathing difficulties. Some de-

veloped bowel and liver prob-

lems and scores have committed suicide. Some claim to have had babies born with physical abnormalities. Lawyers acting for the sick veterans say their illnesses were caused by a combination of the chemicals they were exposed to - pesticides, tablets and inoculations against chemical war-

ther problems were caused by the stress of fighting.
Richie Turnbull, who resigned as a NGVFA regional co-ordinator because of the in-fighting but still works with vets in North Wales and Merseyside, said the feuding was down to Gulf War illness

fare - and leakage from Iraqi

chemical weapons dumps. Fur-

"People are losing their homes, they are losing their jobs and they are trying to get their war pensions," he said. "The pressure is showing in their relationships both personal and

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	Universit	y score	card
	Institution	Final Rank	Percentage staff enter
	University of Oxford University of Cambridge	6.68 6.49	91.: 98.
	London School of Economics Imperial College, London	6.28. 5,99	97.
	University College London UMIST	5.83	90.1 91.1
	University of Bath	5.61 5.56	86.7 89.4
	University of Warwick Lancaster University	5.51 5.5	98.4 91.6
	University of York University of Essex	5.47 5.45	91.3 89.3
	University of Edinburgh University of Sussex	5.35 5.35	94.4 87.8
	University of Bristol University of St Andrews	5.34	86.0
	University of Wales, Cardiff	5.23 5.22	87.5 86.3
	University of Durham University of Sheffield	5.22 5.21	88.2 85.0
	Cranfield University University of Southampton	5.2 5.2	46.5 83.1
	Royal Holloway, London School of African and	5.2	83.1
	Onental Studies King's College London	5.19 5.16	88.5 85.2
	University of Manchester University of Birmingham	5.12 5.10	91.3 86.4
	University of Leeds Goldsmiths College, London	5.07	87.9
ļ	University of East Anglia	5.04 4.97	81.1 88.2
ĺ	University of Surrey University of Nottingham	4.97 4.96	78.3 88.3
l	Loughborough University Birkbeck College	4.92 4.87	81.9 92.8
l	University of Reading University of Glasgow	<b>4.85</b> <b>4.7</b> 9	88.1 76.4
Ì	Aston University Heriot-Watt University	4.77 4.77	69.2 69.5
	University of Liverpool University of Salford	4.75 4.75	82.0 67.8
	University of Newcastle upon Tyne	4.72	86.7
ĺ	University of Stirling University of Leicester	4.7 4.68	76.3 89.6
	Queen Mary and		
	Westfield College University of Oundee	4.6 4.59	82.8 76.4
	University of Strathclyde Open University	4.58 4.57	73.9 49.6
	University of Exeter University of Wales, Swansea	4.55 4.54	80.9 73.8
	The Queen's University of Belfast	4.51	73.7
	University of Bradford Keele University	4.44 4.34	88.4 88.6
	University of Kent at Canterbury University College		82.4
	of North Wales, Bangor Brunel University	4.31 4.27	67.7 75.9
ı	University of Aberdeen	4.21	91.5
	University of Ulster University of Hull	4.17 4.04	54.9 88.3
	University of Wales, Aberystwyth	3.99	86.8
	City University Sheffield Hallam University	3.92 3.56	63.7 27.6
	University of Wales, Lampeter University of Westminster	3.55 3.31	93.4 29.3
	Nottingham Trent University University of Greenwich	3.22 3.2	30.9 26.6
	University of Hertfordshire	3.16	27.7
	University of Portsmouth South Bank University	3.12 3.12	43.9 22.3
	University of Plymouth Napier University	3.1 3.08	44.8 17.0
	University of Brighton Oxford Brookes University	3.04 2.96	44.9 48.1
	University of West of England, Bristol"	2.93	27.8
	Manchester Metropolitan University	2.87	
	University of Sunderland	2.86	34.4 29.2
	Robert Gordon University University of Glamorgan	2.83 2.77	32.6 17.5
	Liverpool John Moores University	2.77	36.4
	University of East London University of Northumbria	2.72	36.3
	at Newcastle University of North London	2.69 2.69	26.0 37.3
	Middlesex University De Montfort University	2.68 2.67	43.1 52.3
	University of Central Laocastice Glasgow Caledonian University		21.9 31.5
	Leeds Metropolitan University Thames Valley University	2.63 2.63	22.7 10.0
	University of Lincolnshire and Humberside	2.6	20.7
	University of Huddersfield Angston University	2.53 2.53	44.5 33.3
	Coventry University University College	2.48	34.2
1	of Wales, Newport Staffordshire University	2.35 2.2)	19.4 38.4
	Condon Guildhall University University of Paisley	2.23 2.2 2.19	36.0
1	University of Derby	2.19	19.4 25.9
	Anglia Polytechnic University University of Abertay Dundee Rousemouth Housenshi	2.08 1.99	23.2 35.5
	Bournemouth University University of Central England	1.97	18.8
1	in Eirmingham University of Wolverhampton	1.97 1.79	34.4 27.3
	University of Teesside University of Luton	1.74 1.72	32.1 28.0
	The university cantings are based	d on the mount	

28.0 The university rankings are based on the average points scored by each researcher entered for the exercise.

The paints score has been calculated from the scores awarded to universities by the Higher Education Funding Council. There are 20100 grades from 1 through 2, 3a, 3b, 4, 5 to 5\*.

The number of researchers scoring each grade has been of collated, added and douded by the total number of researchers untilesed.

The table also shows the percentage of university staff put forward by each university. The many specialised institutions and the colleges of higher reaction have been amitted.

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# Rankings open rift in Oxbridge

Judith Judd Education Editor

Oxford and Cambridge universities were yesterday locked in a dispute over which had come top in the most extensive university research rankings carried out in Britain.

Oxford was top of the list for the highest average score for each of its researchers in the exercise, but it entered a smaller proportion of dons.

The London School of Economics produced its own league table to show that if Cambridge's decision to enter

98 per cent of dons were taken into ac-count, it would come top. In the same table the London School of Economics was second and Oxford, which entered 91 per cent of its dons, third. The assessment of 50,000 academics'

research will be used to distribute £700m to university departments next year. Those with the lowest ratings will receive no money from the Higher Education Funding Council's research hudgets.

A spokeswoman for Cambridge said they were pleased with the results: "In many ways, we have done hetter than Oxford. It depends how you look at the figures. We have encouraged heads of department to put in as many people as possible."

But a spokeswoman for Oxford said: "We are quite happy about the

way in which we put our entry together. Our figures hold up pretty well. We are

ford's research and the international

standing of the university." Universities were allowed to choose what proportion of academics they en-tered for the exercise but those not included will not be eligible for funding. Some put prestige before funding.

Tomorrow's world: Postgraduates working on an argon ion laser in the Ctarendon laboratories at Oxford University Photograph: John Lawrence

hridge and the LSE -submitted almost all their staff. very pleased the results of the exercise confirm the range and strength of Ox-

The old universities dominated the top places, as they did when the last exercise was carried out four years ago. Among provincial universities, Bath and Warwick did best. But the new universities, which were polytechnics until four years ago, improved their performance, with an increase in the

Warwick, which came fourth in the number of departments reaching the LSE table, pointed out that only two other universities beside itself—Camnational excellence from 96 to 351: The new universities of Westminster, Portsmouth, Thames Valley, East Lon-

don and Liverpool John Moores received top grades for some work. Sheffield Hallam had the highest rating of the new universities.
In traditional universities, the num-

ber of departments reaching standards of international excellence in at least some areas increased sharply.

Professor Brian Fender, the funding council's chief executive, said: "International excellence is not concentrated in tiny numbers of universities and colleges. The best universities have improved their international standing. Many other in-stitutions have also performed im-pressively by identifying and building

on their strengths."

The Funding Council meets next month to decide how to distribute research funds. It already concentrates point in that direction."

most research money on a comparatively small number of universities. Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of

State for Education, has suggested the concentration might increase.

But Professor Fender said the aim was for the country to fund the best possible research for the money: "If it turns out that we could fund that better by a more concentrated distribution than is the case at the moment then why not? But the evidence doesn't

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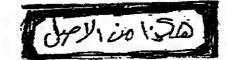
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# Tory flagship's house sales ruled unlawful

Fran Abrams
Political Correspondent

The London Borough of Wandsworth acted unlawfully when it sold off council houses housing policy from 1980 until without taking into account its 1983. duties to the homeless, according to an auditors' report published last night.

The policy of offering vacant properties for sale rather than for rent was introduced in 1983 when Sir Paul Beresford, now

leader of the council. Sir Paul joined the council in 1978, the year it started selling off some of its homes, and was chair of

basis of the one adopted by ship for Tory-run local Westminster, whose former government-had introduced its leader, Dame Shirley Porter, policy in order to attract Conand eight other councillors were surcharged £31.8m by the dis- The council "misdirected itself

trict auditor. However, yester- in law" when it assumed that it day's report, although critical, stopped short of recommending surcharges or high court action. The investigation by Rowland

Little, a partner with the accountancy firm Binder Hamlyn, Wandsworth's arrangement rejected claims that the counwas reputed to have formed the cil—which was held up as a flagservative voters into the area.

was entitled to strike a balance between its desire to increase home ownership and its duties

to the homeless, the report says. It should have considered the consequences of its policy for ople with medical conditions and for others in need of social housing, the report said. The report also criticised the council's failure to consider whether the properties would be mortgage-able or not. Many were in high-

rise properties and huyers found them hard to sell on.

A council paper which declared the policy a success, published just after Sir Paul became an MP in 1992, was imbalanced and "fell far short of acceptable standards", the nu-ditor found. As a result, members who voted to open up new sales areas were acting on inadequate information.

demned Wandsworth and called

for nine Conservative prospective parliamentary candidates who have links with the council to reject its housing policies.

Tony Belton, the Labour group leader in Wandsworth who brought the policy to the auditor's attentioo, said it was "yet another example of Tory sleaze". And he added: "People have had enough of grubby Tory politics - especially those Wandsworth residents in severe medical need of rehousing.

those trapped in flats they bought from the Tories but which are oow worth peanuts. those facing ever-soaring repair

bills and those homeless through no fault of their own." Sir Paul was in Italy on ministerial business last night but he asked his special adviser to point ont that the auditor's report was based on legal advice. Wandsworth had had different advice, he said. In addition, he pointed out that no iodividual

officer or member of the council was criticised.

The current council leader. Edward Lister, said the report set the record straight. Wandsworth had always acted reasonably and had paid proper regard to its legal powers and duties, he added. The council's policy of encouraging home ownership has heeo a great success. It has helped to make Wandsworth estates attractive

# Heseltine admits to false accusation

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Michael Heseltine has admitted. making unfounded allegations against a civil servant in his evidence to a cross-party Commons select committee,

The Deputy Prime Minister admitted the mistake in a letter to the Commons select committee on public affairs, and asked the MPs to "disregard this part of my evidence".

The embarrassing retraction followed a sustained attack on civil service leakers by Mr Heseltine at a hearing of the committee in which he referred to the disclosure of an internal Treasury paper in the summer.

He did not identify the civil servant, but it was thought to be Helen Goodman, who applied to stand for the Labour seat of Barnsley East but withdrew. She is now on maternity leave and was cleared of any involvement in the leaking of the

Mr Heseitine wrote: "I mentioned in my replies to questions that I understood that a Labour candidate had leaked documents whilst a civil servant. On re-reading my papers I find that I had misread the original

press report."
Mr Heseltine's letter reinvice unions. "I find it depressing officers, held a press conference that trade union officials speak- to deny his allegations.

vants are in practice supporters of the Labour Party. This must inevitably raise questions as to the degree of detachment they hring to their prononnce-

Leaders of the civil service unions, who protested to Sir Robin Butler, the head of the civil service, were outraged by the letter. "He has admitted he was wrong, but he has still oot apologised," said one civil ser-vice leader.

The leaders of all the main civil service unions, representing top civil servants in Whiteforced his attack on the civil ser- hall, including ministerial press

### Former helicopter chief turns his talents to design in the farmyard



The good life Cows on the Baynards Park estate at Cranleigh in Surrey lying on the water beds designed by Alan Bristow who says that his

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Water beds

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A helicopter pioneer turned farmer, Alan Bristow, has brought a touch of the bordelto to the cattle shed. His 450

cows are spending the winter on water beds designed by him. Mr Bristow, the former head of Bristow Helicopters, the world's higgest helicopter air-line, devised the strengthened rubber beds after deciding that the £50,000 he was spending each year on straw could be put

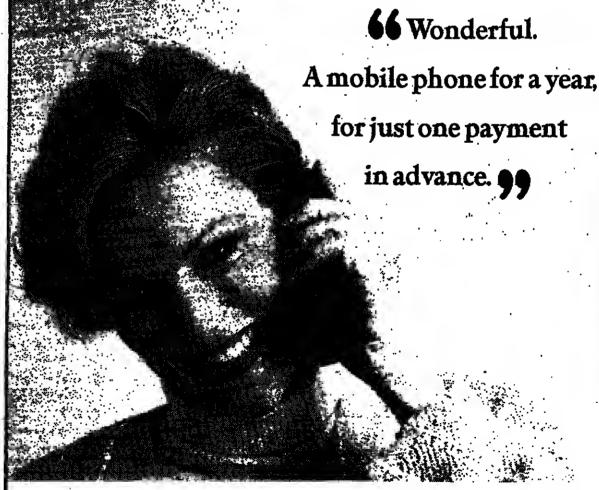
to better use. He claims that his system is more hygienic because it avoids the problem of bacteria growing in the straw. They are also more comfortable for the herd which normally face the winter bazard of knee injuries on straw-covered floors. By training the cows to lie down with their heads away from the pen entrance, automatic scoops can even whisk away aoy slurry they produce. When Mr Bristow unveiled

his latest invention at agricultural shows this year, he was inundated with orders. He has patented the design and licensed Dunlop in Holland to make the heds, which cost around £100 each, after they have been tested at his 2,000acre farm Cranleigh, Surrey, where he has 252 in use.

Speaking at his farm yesterday, Mr Bristow said: Water beds have sleazy connotations of cheap bordellos and motels, but nothing could be further from the truth.

"It is designed to improve the health, welfare and comfort of our cows and improve the quality of the food ... It has increased milk production by about 6 per cent."

The idea won the Duke of Edinburgh's award at the European Dairy Farming Event at Stoneleigh last September. The award was for the invention that made the biggest contribution to the diary industry in 1996. We won it against the big boys like ICI. You could have knocked me down with a feather," Mr Bristow said.



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# Stadium plans raise a united storm on the moor in Newcastle

and lan Burrell

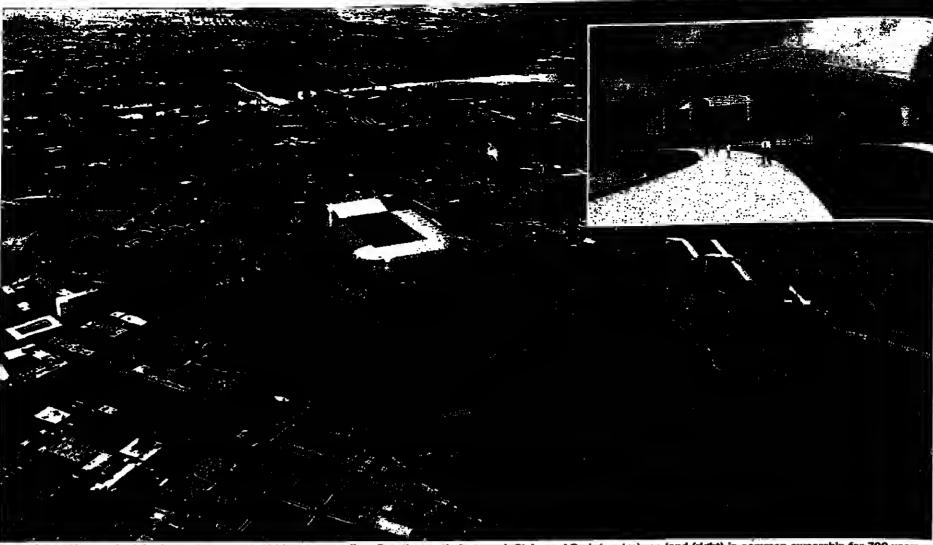
Newcastle United Football Club sparked uproar on Tyneside last night after unveiling a £65m plan in build a new "superstadium" on a historic swathe nf land in the city's centre.

The club wants to build a new 55,000-seater stadium nn Town Moor, which has been in common ownership for over 700 years. The move has caused a rift between local councillors and outraged local protesters who have fought to preserve the open space from development.

The proposal fullows months

and City Freemen, who control the 1,300-acre moor. Sir John Hall, chairman of Newcastle whn is turning the club into a continental-style sporting club with teams playing several different sports will be applying for planning permission for the stadium early in January and remain hopeful of getting council backing.

City councillors were given a sneak preview of the new plans at a confidential briefing nn Wednesday night and many emerged undecided. Outside the meeting, a pressure group calling themselves No Business on the Moor handed councillors



No husiness: Newcastle United propose a new 55,000-seater stadium (inset) near their ground, St James' Park (centre), on land (right) in common ownership for 700 years

Councillar John Shipley, leader of the Liberal Democrat opposition on Newcastle City Council, called for a referendum

disappointed that the Lahour group on the council had not thought it appropriate that the

committee.
"This is so important that it

ought to have wider consultation and debate," he said.

should go ahead. He said he was to the development control he would be calling on John Gummer, the Secretary of State for the Environment, to call a public inquiry into whether the stadium plan should he al-

O'Brien, a Labour councillor who represents the Moorside ward, said: "This is a very dramatic development and it is true that the club have taken steps to try and minimise any damage the development might have on the area.

"But at the end of the day it is not something I can support. The proposal put forward by the club still doesn't meet the needs of my constituents.

"The bottom line is it is going to involve a loss of open

space on Castle Leazes." Lucy Milton, of No Business on the Moor, said that the council and the football club were operating hand in glove.

"They are by-passing the

normal procedure of going from committee to committee. It is totally partisan and thoroughly unacceptable. I am sure it is not something that the national Labour party would approve of. The Town Moor is the heart-

and lungs of the city." The moor has been in common ownership for 700 years and provides a green area forrecuperating patients at the nearby Royal Victoria Infir-

fic management implications of crowds of 70,000 were "horrific" and that if the scheme was allowed it could set a national

"If they get it here what city centre park will be safe." she

Yesterday's announcement comes five months after Newcastle City Council took the unusual step of inviting the club to submit a planning application both parties."

amid growing fears the club was set to quit the city boundaries fnr a new home in nearby Gateshead.

In a further twist in the saga it also emerged yesterday that four years ago, Newcastle United actually opposed plans by a development company to build a big sports and music areproposed for the new football

A letter in the City Council from the football club, seen by



Sir John Hall: Applying for planning permission

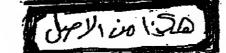
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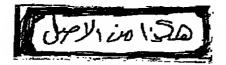
Ms Milton said that the trafThe Independent, contains objections to the proposal nn the grounds that it would cause

serious traffic problems.
Russell Cushing, the club's general manager, wrote: "The siting of another large entertainment venue in such close proximity, with apparently lit-tle nr nn provision for the parking of additional vehicles. would result in major safety management implications for











Feeling the heat: Altnai Assylmuratova, prima ballerina with the Kirov Ballet, warming up before a performance

# Tories to cover millennium debt

Christian Wolmar Westminster Correspondent

In a last throw of the dice to rescue the £700m Millennium Exhibition at Greenwich in south-east London, the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Hesel-tine, has agreed that the Gov-ernment will underwrite all its includes £200m from the costs, making it into a public, rather than private project.

This unusual reversal of the Government's credo is an attempt to keep the plans on track in the face of refusals by Labour to guarantee any potential losses. It is also a recognition that although the private sector was to have contributed £150m in sponsorship, less than one-third of that has been guaranteed so far.

Under the plan the organis-ers, Millennium Central, would become a quango, rather than an independent entity as it is at present. However, the agree-ment of the Labour Party, which

is needed because of the likelihood that it will be in power when the event takes place, has still not been obtained. Jack Cunningham, Labour's heritage spokesman, has refused to sanc-

Millennium Commission. Earlier this week in Parlia-ment Mr Cunningham said that ment Mr Cummings and that the ultimate cost might be £1bn and wondered whether the scheme should go ahead "at any price or be allowed to pre-empt more and more Millen-nium Commission funds".

tion the £700m budget, which

There is a suspicion that Labour would like to see the whole plan ditched in favour of smaller, regional exhibitions. One source involved in the plans said: "Mr Cunningham is not being clear. He keeps on saying the budget is excessive, but he refuses to say exactly how much should

Light up with

ganisers, losses could be up to £427m, if there were building site overruns and a bad summer.

The decision by Mr Heseltine to "nationalise" the exhibition carries echoes of the Festival of Britain in 1951 when a similar move was made in the late Forties by the ruling Labour Party to ensure that the event would take place even if the Tories won the 1950 election. In the event, Labour just held power and by the time the Tories won later in 1951, the festival was so popular that they did

not attempt to curtail it.

According to Richard Weight, who is writing a book about the exhibitions of 1851, 1951 and 2000, concerns about overspending may be exaggerated. He says that criticism of overspending on the Festival of Britain was "so strong that they managed to keep to budget. The Arts Counbe spent on the project." Ac-coroing to consultants to the or-since its events were so popular".

# How mystical seven gives a nod to big ears

Liz Hunt Health Editor

From the Seven Deadly Sins and the Seven Wonders of the World to Seven Brides for Seven Brothers and the Seven Dwarfs, the number seven has a significance denied to other, lesser (or greater) digits - and the human body is not exempt.

Scientists have discovered that male, human ears grow in seven-year cycles, reviving the ancient Greek belief that there are circaseptennial rhythms in human development.
The discovery follows the

that some very old men bave big ears in relation to their skull size.

Dr. Jos Verbulst of the Louis Bolk Institute in the The Netherlands and Patrick seven thips from seven beams Onghena at Katholieke Uni- seven nails from seven doors... versiteit Leuven in Belgium, analysed ear length values from the age of 30 to 83 and found that ear-growth velocity peaked .

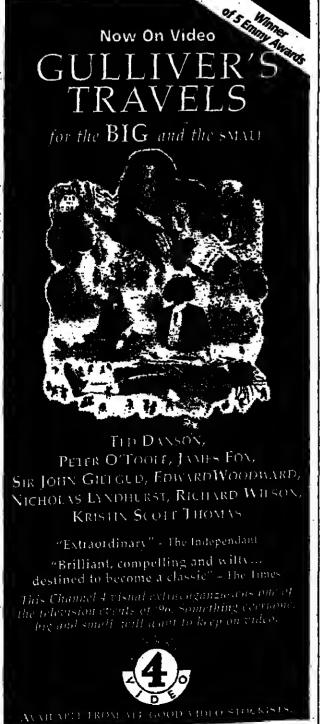
velopment is old, dating back at least to ancient Greece. Reports on circaseptennial phenomena are, however, scarce in recent published work.

"Seven-year periodicity re-mains comparatively unknown, perhaps because it is not looked for by many researchers. This may be because no major seven-year rhythms seem to be present in the natural environment. In this respect, the circaseptennial rhythm differs from the better documented circadian and circaseptadian rhythms, which can be linked to

day-night cycle, and to tidal periodicities, respectively." Professor Ian Stewart, of the Mathematics Institute at Warwick University, says that in the Hippocratic tradition the numrevelation last year that male human ears continue to grow throughout life – at about 0.22mm a year in men aged over 30-supporting the observation seven days drinking and bathing in water containing and bathing and bat in water containing asphodel (a type of lily). A Jewish cure for fever involved taking "seven prickles from seven palm trees. and so on, up to "seven hairs

from the beard of an old dog" Numerologists see seven as the sum of the spiritual three and the material four, signifying around multiples of seven years. and the material four, signifying
They write in the British Medthe creation. The world, acical Journal: "The idea of a seven-year rhythm in human de-90 sets the human life span at seven decades; Solomon's temple had seven steps, and Noah's dove returned to the ark after





# Moral guideline for schools says marriage is best

Lucy Ward Education Correspondent

Explicit support for marriage has been included in new guidance for teaching morality in schools after traditionalists put pressure

on government advisors. Draft guidelines had made no meotioo of marriage, referring merely to valuing families as the hasis of a caring society. But af-ter public consultation, the statement of values for use in moral education has been revised to say that "we as a society should support marriage as the traditional form of family".

The change, announced yes-lerday, will please Gillian Shep-hard, the Secretary of State for Education, who said that she waoted more emphasis on the family than was included in the original. Five members of the 150-strong forum which devised the draft statement had also called for stronger support

of the family. However, the forum, set up by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority (SCAA), was at pains to point out that the change should not devalue the experience of childreo growing up to non-traditional families. The new clause adds that society should recognise "that love and commitment required for a secure and happy childhood can be found in families of other kiods". Dr Nick Tate, SCAA's chief

executive, said the changes represented a compromise following consultation, and denied that Mrs Shephard had influenced the recommendations.

Evidence showed that areas with low levels of marriage and high divorce rates suffered greater social and educational problems, he said. "The challenge to the educatioo system is how can it best help to cre-ate a system in which childreo aspire 10 lifelong marriage and are more likely to achieve it."

Countries boasting a strong academic performance ofteo included moral education as a core part of their curriculum, Dr Tate said. Although there was oo evidence that moral teaching improved standards, "it clearly does not get in the way".

The changes have been made following a wide consultation including a survey of almost 1,500 adults in England and a random sample of 3,200 schools. Fourteeo groups of headteachers. school governors and parents contributed their views, and 400 organisations responded to a

postal questionnaire.

The MORI poli revealed that the vast majority of adults

agreed with the statements, al-though the teachers felt that many of the terms used were capable of differing interpreta-tions and thought the guidelines should be shorter and clearer.

The consultation found an even split between those who believed there was no single form of the family and those supporting an increased emphasis on the family and marriage. Schools were similarly divided.

The forum concluded that there was less disagreement over family values than had been thought, and felt the oew wording offered a suitable compromise, Dr Tate said.

The guidance is intended as a basis for teaching moral values to pupils, to prompt debate and discussioo rather than to be adopted wholesale. The revised statement will be put before the forum next month. Recommendations will be put to the SCAA and Mrs Shephard in February.



After the deluge water with nowhere to go

A town was awash yesterday as floodwater swept through its market square lifting cars in

Chester-le-Street in Co Durham was cut off as cars became stranded in water three feet deep after more than 48 hours of cootinuous rain.

Cars travelling to the town from the west were turned away by police. Other motorists who tried to venture in were left stranded after their engines were overcome with water.

Martin Wallwork, spokesman for Durham Constabulary said-"It appears the flooding has been caused by the blockage of South Burns stream which runs mto the town and on to the River Wear. The water had no-where to go so it just flooded into the market place.

A shopkeeper, Lawrence Steel, said: "Some of the houses near here have been flooded along with a couple of offices. The mechanics oext door can't work either because the garage iscompletely full of

# Debt fear over plan to make poor pay bills

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Some of Britain's poorest people are likely to have help withdrawn from the social services departments in paying their bills for heating, electricity, gas, water and council tax.

A leaked document seen by The Independent says it was agreed at a meeting with Peter Lilley, the Secretary of State for Social Security, that the Benefits Agency should "not be in the business of social banking/debt management and should seek to develop a disengagement strat-egy, leading ultimately to the withdrawal of the direct payments scheme".

The Benefits Agency, which handles the payments for thousands of the poorest claimants, said: "The whole thing is under in the direct payments sections review. It is making sure cus-tomers understand their re-eojoy that aspect of their work sponsibilities as well as their rights. Ministers are still thinking about it."

But the leaked document drawn, these people will be leaves little doubt the cuts in service will go ahead as part of Mr Lilley's drive 10 reduce costs by deht." cutting civil service jobs in social security offices across the

The move was condemned as "heartless" by Alan Simpson, a with the banks and the lenders leading member of the Cam-paign Group of Labour MPs, that will go on."

whose local Nottingham office is among those to be hit by the cuts. He said: "This is a slap in the face for some of the poorest in the land,"

Direct payments are made by social security officers to the privatised utilities, local councils, and courts, in deductions from beoefits for claimants who are in debt and unable to handle their own affairs.

The withdrawal of direct payments will leave the claimants with extra benefits, but civil servants who make the payments fear it will lead to more people falling ioto debt, and having their gas, water or electricity switched off, because they will spend the money on other items they occd, such as the weekly

food bill. eojoy that aspect of their work helping people to get out of debt, said a civil service source.

"Wheo that help is with-

The direct payments of mort-gages to lenders will not be affected. The Benefits Agency said: "It has been worked out and is more efficient for us, so



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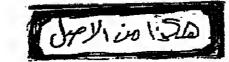
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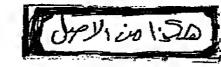
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Ruined classic: Chandos House, off Portland Place, London. Although featured in the film Sense and Sensibility, it has been allowed to fall into decay Photograph: Edward Sykes

# Repairs win reprieve for owners of Adam's rotting masterpiece

Fairgate bought the proper-ty for £6m in 1988 at the height

of the property boom, inteod-

ing to turn it into a hotel. But, as the company's

solicitor abserved yesterday:

property at the wrong time.

Once repaired, the house will be

put back on the market for

Chandos, the house became

the Austrian (later Austro-

Hungarian) embassy from 1815

to-1871 and was the scene of

Built for the third Duke of

resideotial or hotel use.

My clients bought the wrong

cracks in the wall.

rot threatened to spread into the principal rooms and there were Prince Eszterhazy, the ambas-

sador. Its most receot occupant

was the Royal Medical Associ-

ation. On film, it was also the

ing the owners two months to

carry out £900,000 of work.

Carrara in Italy.

Stephen Goodwin Heritage Correspondent

Moves to purchase compulsorily Chandos House, one of Loodon's finest but most oeglected town houses, have been suspended by English Heritage, after its owners started vital

The Grade I listed building, built by Robert Adam in 1770 off Portland Place, served for half a century as the Austro-Hungarian embassy and featured in the film Sense and Sensibility. But in more recent years at has stood empty and has been ravaged by dry rot. In May this year, English

issuing a compulsory purchase order for what had become one of the most important buildings on the quango's

"Buildings at Risk" register.

A public inquiry was to be held next month, But following a start on repairs by the owners, Fairgate Investments, the inquiry has been adjourned indefinitely.

The property company, chaired by a Nigerian chieffain, Chief Akindele, has put a new roof on the building and has agreed to begin further work in the new year. This will include replacing four ornate Adam chimney pieces which were stolen last year.

Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of the heritage quango, said he was relieved that work was at last in progress, hot added that the CPO would not be withdrawn until it was completed. Last May he railed against

the "disgraceful neglect" of Chandos House. Extensive dry



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# Asylum seekers snared in red tape

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

Ministers are to review the appeals system for asylum-seekers and would-be immigrants after a huge rise in the number of outstanding cases.

Last night the Home Office rejected allegations by Labour's spokesman on immigration and refugees that the criteria for accepting asylum-seekers had ceping asymm-sectors had been lightened up. Under a 1951 UN convention, anyone with a "well-founded fear of per-secution" was granted refugee status, a spokeswoman said.

Neither she nor the court service could explain why the number of ourstanding appeals had gone up twentyfold since April 1994, from 1,069 to 20,388. while the numbers applying for asylum had fallen. Rules introduced this year under a new Asy-lum and Immigration Act have restricted benefits for asylumseekers and have required employers to make checks on them. However, Michael Howard,

the Home Secretary, announced in a parliamentary answer that he and the Lord Chancellar would look at whether the system allowed adequate rights of appeal and whether it provided good value for mooey.

They would also consider what impact immigrants' and asylum-seekers' rights of appeal had oo the operation of immigration control, he said.

Doug Henderson, the home of John and Fanny Dash-Labour spokesman, said asy-lum-seekers ofteo did not feel wood in the film of Jane Austen's Sense and Sensibility. the system was fair. There were Fairgate successfully settled 60,000 cases outstanding, and a legal action against a security company over the theft of the 20,000 were in the appeals syschimney pieces. Replacing them will be a specialist task involvtem. "It is quite clear that there has been a tightening up by iming the import of marble from migratioo officers on applications and has led to a greater English Heritage served a renumber of appeals. The whole pairs ootice last February, givprocess is grinding slowly to a

ing to do with their new lmmigration Act."

Parliamentary questions tabled by Mr Henderson revealed that the number of outstanding appeals had risen by almost 9,000 in 11 months. from 11,000. The hudget nf the Immigration Appellate Authority had gone up from £6.9m in 1994-95 to £9.9m in the current financial year.

Claude Moraes, director of the Jaint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, said Home Office scepticism about asylum cases had affected the attitudes of adjudicators.

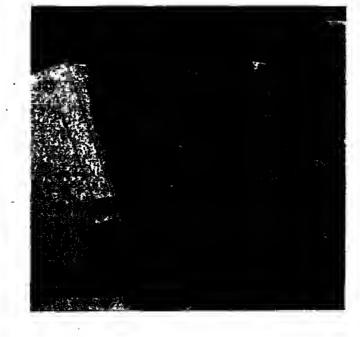
"There is a climate of disbelief and a culture of suspicion m the Hame Office. We see it every day in our case work. Given that the review is by this Home Office and this Home Secretary we have got in be deeply apprehensive." he said.

A Home Office spokes-woman said the number of ap-plications for asylum had fallen from 3,300 in January this year tn 920 in June. After a High Court ruling temporarily reinstated benefits io June. 2.515 applied in July, the spokeswoman said. "The criteria have always been the same You could ask if all those appeal applications truly valid or if some are just delaying tactics."



halt. It is the exact opposite of what the Government were try-

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# Peruvian leader caught in fatal waiting game

Maria Pallais

After two days of silence, and still without having made an nfficial appearance, President Alberto Fujimori is in close consultation with his most trusted ministers, attempting to find a solution to the devastating blow that Peruvian rebels have inflicted on the credibility of his

Mr Fujimori aod his ministers, including Prime Minister, Hugo Pandolfi, Minister of the Interior, General Juan Briones Davila, and Minister of Education, Domingo Palermo, were reported to be meeting yesterday morning in the Presidential Palace in discuss the Japanese embassy siege that fullowed the seizing on Tuesday night – the hirthday of Japaoese Emperor Akihito – nf around 500 diplomats, politicians and business leaders.

The left-wing Tupac Amaru rebels were yesterday still hold-

ing 490 hostages.

Prior to that meeting, inside the Japanese mansioo rebel leader Andante Emilio Hucrta, and other memhers of the MRTA chose Ambassadors Anthony Vincent of Caoada,

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and the French attaché, Hyacinthe D'Montera, to relay their list of demands. First among these is the release of 500 Tupac Amaru prisoners.

On Wedoesday oight, the five diplomats left the Japanese embassy to meet with a government commission appointed by the President and headed by a local government official. The rebels had asked that Hubert Lanssiers, a priest, and the couotry's Ombudsman, Jorge Santisteban, act as their representatives. Though they both accepted, so far it is un-

a part of the mediation efforts. As the rebels see it, their demands are simple - the libera-tion of all the 500 prisooers, among them their leader. Victor Polay. They also want bet-ter conditions in jails, justice for all, and economic opportunities for the poor.

known whether or not they are

But President Fujimori, who has built a world reputation for having had the courage to "disintegrate" terrorism in his country, especially in the capital. Lima, will find it hard to cave m to any of the demands. "He is between a rock and a

Heribert Woeckell of Germany.

Alcibiades Karokis of Greece hard place. If he gives in to just one, of their demands he will lose face forever. If he doesn't, he will be blamed for bloodshed," said one observer.

The drama began minutes af-ter Mr Fujimori's mother and his younger brother, Pedro. had left the Japanese Embassy. A group of 25 young rebels, masked and heavily armed, stormed into the residence, some carrying flowers, others dressed as butlers, and a group from the back door entered through a tunnel they had built. ordering everyone to the floor.

Local analysts were yesterday at a loss as to what the outcome would be. They insist it may be too early to predict anything. Mr Fujimori will have no choice but to reappear before Christmas, according to many. "He's a very calculating man.

He's probably waiting for what the Japanese Foreign Minister, who arrived in Lima early yes-terday morning, will tell him. Theo he will listed to the US representative and soon, hopefully on Christmas Eve, he will make his own decision." said a Peruvian doctor who supports Mr Fulimnri, "But we have to admit it. This was a heavy hlow - totally unexpected.



Japanese Embassy in Lima pre-

sents striking parallels with the

# rmed force could lift Lima siege.

Christopher Bellamy Defence Correspondent

Counter-terrorist groups from around the worldcould be involved in an armed operation to release the hostages being held in the Japanese Emhassy in Lima, although the large oumber of prisoocrs would make a

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their hostages.

Peru has its own, highly-efficient counter-terrorist group called Dincote - the Directorate of Intelligeoce for Counter-Terrorism. Led by General Antonio Ketin Vidal, rescue attempt more difficult. It it captured the leader of the

PRICE CRASH

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would only be attempted if the well-organised kidnappers from Tupac Amaru started killing pac Amaru, Victor Campos, in 1992. Sources yesterday said they believed the current head of Dincote might be one of the

> European and US agencies have been widely involved in South America because of the war against drug barons, and British experts helped advise Colombian police in the rescue of a British hostage earlier this

> It is likely that experts from Britain's SAS, Scotland Yard and the German GSG-9 army unit are already in Lima. The SAS has experience rescuing hostages in circumstances very similar to those of the Lima embassy siege: the Iranian Embassy siege of 1980, which first brought the hlack-clad, hooded soldiers to the world's attention. During the five-day operation, both the SAS and Scotland Yard gained extensive experi-

ence in hostage negotiations. The German GSG-9 unit's finest hour was the successful at-

in 1977 by guerrillas from Ger-many and Palestine.

The previous year, Israeli commandos from Mossad had rescued a large number of fellow oatiooals taken hostage at Entebbe, in Uganda. France also has ao out-

standing counter-terrorist unit, GIGN, a division of the French Gendarmerie, It differs from the other principal anti-terrorist forces as it is used against armed criminals in France. Italy also has a crack anti-ter-

rorist squad, a divisioo of the Carahinieri. It performed very competently, rescuing Brigadier-General Dozier of the US Army wheo he was captured by terrorists in the early 1980s. The Carabinieri come under the Ministry of Defeoce - unlike the Freoch Geodarmerie - but the Italian unit has oot been prominent in in-ternational operations since were theo released. The kid-

Experts yesterday said the large number of hostages made a rescue more difficult, but it would be no different in printack oo a Lufthansa airliner ciple to other hostage rescue op-seized at Mogadishu, Somalia erations. The seizure of the secured by a military attack.

capture of the Dominican Emhassy in Bogota, Colombia, in 1980 by M19, a Colombian leftwing movement. In Lima, the terrorists who seized the emhassy posed as waiters: in Bogota, they were playing football io a field opposite the embassy where a similar function was being held. The two teams, referee and linesmen, 25 in all, then donned tracksuits and sprinted across the road, seizing the embassy and 75 people, including no less than 14 ambassadors. They held their hostages for two months, demanding the release of 300 prisooers and \$50m. Businesses from the ambassadors' countries eveotually raised \$2.5m, and the kidnappers flew to sanctuary in Havana, Cuba with oappers did oot succeed in securing the release of any of

### Florida 'racketeers' arrested

Fort Lauderdale (AP) — Nime Corozzo and the others alleges with Gotti on racketeering alleged members of the Gam-crimes including loan sharking, charges in 1987 in New York. bino crime family, including John Gom's apparent successor, have been indicted on racke-

teering charges.
Nicholas "Little Nick" suspected of stealing more from the Gambino family. Corozzo, 56, has allegedly been running the crime family now that Gotti is serving a life sentence for the 1985 execution of

a rival crime boss.

transporting stolen goods and the attempted murder of a federal informant, Louis Maione, suspected of stealing money

The FBI arrested Mr Corrozo as he emerged from the surf eration from a company called off Key Biscayne. One of Mr Cor- EZ Check Cashing, where loans rozo's top lieutenants, Leonard DiMaria, was arrested in New The indictment against Mr York. Both men were acquitted

It was the first time an active boss of an organised crime family was arrested in Florida, the FBI said.

the people they wanted freed,

but they got away with plenty of money. It was a satisfactory out-

come for everyone - but was not

According to the indictment. the family ran a loanshark opwere extended with credit rates of 2 to 5 per cent a week - equivalent to 260 per cent a year.





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# Encryption ruling hailed as free speech victory

An American judge has de-lighted software companies in the United States by ruling that the Constitution's guarantee of "free speech" means that the government may not stop a mathematician from posting encryption programs on the Internet.

The ruling, late on Wednesday in Sun Francisco, may chip away at restrictions on the export of encryption technologies, which are officially classified as "military weaponry".

Academics hailed the ruling hy US District Judge Marilyn Hall Patel as a victory for free speech, while computer industry executives called it a milestone for American software

Daniel Bernstein, assistant professor at the University of Illinois-Chicago, and the man at the centre of tha case, said: "It's really such a shock to switch from Tear of this law to suddenly maybe I can do something. As far as I can tell, I'm free."

The judge's decision stopped short of forbidding all restrictions on the export of encryption, codes that allow computer messages to be scrambled so they are virtually unbreakable by any but the intended receiver.

But Judge Patel said the current rules, which treat such computer programs as if they were military weapons, were "an unconstitutional prior restraint [of speech] in violation of the First Amendment". The First Amendment guarantees freedom of speech and of the press. introduced in the Cold War.

Judge Patel: 'Current Rules violate First Amendment

significant shorts

Chechens in Tennis star's tribute to Red £10m claim Cross victims rejected

in black gathered outside the failed yesterday in a hid to

agency workers murdered by gunmen in Chechnya. spectator which kept her out gunmen in Chechnya. of the sport for more than

the brutal attack, there was a that security measures at the second mass slaying when six Hamhurg Open in April Russian residents of Grozny. 1993 were madequate,

official mourning for the six for a knife attack by a

Tennis star Monica Sei

win damages from the

allowing her attacker to

Lawyers for Seles had

jump from the stands and plunge a knife into her back.

elaimed £10m for damages and lost earnings.

German Tennis Federation

A court rejected her claim

Scores of Chechens dressed

Red Cross compound near

Grozny yesterday, a day of

gunmen in Chechnya.

has been offered for information leading to the

And with the separatist republic still reeling from

were gunned down in their homes. A £60,000 reward

killers' arrest. Grozny - AP

Israel in strike

Decision may scrap bars to the export of codes on the Internet, writes Charles Arthur

Lawyers said the ruling will allow anyone in the US to post More recently, the US and other Western governments, have argued that the restrictions source code, or instructions for how to encrypt messages, on the Internet. However, new federare needed to keep tabs on terrorist organisations. This allows the export only of "weak" al rules that take effect from 1 January mean the judge's deciencryption programs, which sion may not have the results the while effectively impossible for industry hoped for, said the individuals to crack, are prob-Electronic Frontier Foundaably not safe from a governtion, an online civil rights group. ment-owned supercomputer. It is not clear if the ruling cov-Allowing more powerful eners only theoretical mathecryption programs to spread unchecked, would make it immatical explanations of how such programs work or if actupossible to track conspiracies and criminals, they have argued. al software, which could be run US software companies and citizens have complained that and sold, can also be freely dis-

tributed around the world, the the restrictions handicap them, The White House declined to and that online shopping, in-ternational banking and corcomment on the judgment, al-though the State Department is expected to appeal. Last year a Justice Department lawyer arporate negotiations would benefit from having high-level encryption, which could be used gued in court that a code whose sole function was to create seand sold around the world. Last month, President Bill crecy should not be considered a protected form of speech. A message scrambled by the code, he said, "could be a love letter, or it could be a communication

from [Iraqi President] Saddam to bomb Kuwait." Professor Bernstein's victory marks a triumph for the US Constitution over its government. Restrictions on the export of encryption techniques were

Clinton signed an order liber-alising US export policy, to allow companies to sell slightly more powerful encryption programs abroad, but only if the companies make assurances that US law enforcement could intercept the communications.

Professor Bernstein came to the State Department's notice when he wrote an encryption program called Snuffle. This allows users to scramble messages that move across computer networks. The messages can then be read only by using his decryption program, Unsnuffle. The State Department decided in 1993 that the programs required licenses to communicate them on the Internet, prompt-

ing the lawsuit. Judge Patel noted the office that makes the licensing deci-sions has no standards for denying a license. The president and chief executive of RSA Data Security, the world's largest pro-ducer of encryption technology, praised the ruling. "We invented this technology but we can't controls," said Jim Bizdos.

Message locked

Andrew, who wants to send an encrypted message to Bernie, gets Bernie's "public key" - either by asking Bernie for it, or looking it up in a directory. Bernie also has a "private key" which he never reveals to anyone else. Both the public and private keys are strings of digits and numbers. The longer they are

the more secure the encryption

use the same encryption

program for the system to

Andrew and Bernie must both

isti by doing a comple mathematical operatio

(encrypted) with public key

How modern computer encryption keeps its secrets

Ever if the message is Intercepted by someone who has been by someone who has been by someone by are very similarly to be able to crack it. The public key is the a petitol — you can't open another patients with it. Beauting a wissage generated from the products of two large orime maintains means you orime manifes means you have to find but what the prime manifes were and that usually recoiles a

Bernie, however, has his private key - which in effect means that he has the key to the padlock of his public key. All he has to do is run the encryption software, tap in his private key, and he can read the message from Andrew – fairly confident that they are the only people who have been able to read it. Bernie can give his public

key out to anyone who wants

costs nothing to make, unlike

to send him messages; it

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Top Russian at Hizbollah physicist dies Yuli Khariton, the

Israeli jets raided Hizbollah targets in south Lebanon after guerrillas fired mortar Cambridge-educated nuclear bombs at an Israeli post during a visit by a senior physicist widely regarded as officer, security sources said. the father of the Soviet atom bomb, died yesterday at the age of 92. Khariton's body Maj-Gen Amiram Levine, Israel's northern commander, was said to have been at the Braachit will be flown from the town of Sarov in central Russia, post on the edge of Israel's where he died, to be buried soulb Lebanon occupation at Moscow's élite Novodevichye cemetery. zone when it came under attack. Nabatiyeh - Reuter Moscow - Reuter

Mafia suspect Bardot denies racism charge

indicted Animal-rights activist Brigitte Bardot denied in Nine alleged members of the Gambino crime family, court yesterday that she including John Gotti's incited racial hatred by apparent successor, have claiming in a newspaper been indicted on article that France was being racketeering charges, police in Florida said. Nicholas Corozzo, 56, has allegedly invaded by sheepslaughtering Muslims. The charges against the former actress – which carry a been running the crime family now that Gotti is punishment of up to a year in prison and a £40,000 fine serving a life sentence for murder. The indictment - were brought by the against Corozzo and the Movement Against Racism, the League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism and the others alleges crimes including loan sharking, transporting stolen goods Human Rights League. and attempted murder. Fort Lauderdale - AP



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# **Swiss** 'should repay Nazi war gold'

Louise Jury

An official report oo post-war deals on Nazi gold yesterday criticised the way the Swiss government and bankers han-dled the accounts of Holocaust

The report's authors said the Swiss government had made repeated mistakes in handling the issue and should take "coo-

crete compensation measures". However, they did not spec-ify what the measures should be, or who should benefit. The two historians, Peter Hug and Marc Perrenoud, were commissioned by the Swiss government in October to investigate claims by Jewish critics and an American senator that Holocaust victims' riches were used to compensate Swiss citizens whose property was seized by countries in eastern Europe.

They rejected the charge that Swiss people were paid directly from the money of Nazi victims. But they confirmed that the Swiss government had made pay-outs to Poland and Hungary after the war.

They urged the government to to hunt for east Europeans whose wealth was declared ownerless and handed over.

"Considering the decades of omissions, it is recommended that further steps be considered in order to fulfil today's perception of justice," the report

It added that Switzerland assigned funds from dormant accounts to Polaod and Hungary under post-war compensation accords for confiscated Swiss property. The mooey helped both countries meet compensation payments, but this was not tantamount to paying off Swiss citizens, it said.

Switzerlaod paid Polaod 16,000 Swiss francs in 1960 from accounts the Poles

law as reverting to them since the missing owners had last lived in Poland.

In 1975, it paid Poland e larger sum of 464,000 francs and Hungary 325,000 francs based oo the same home-country claim, but this time the money came from a 1960s fund for bank accounts left unclaimed after their owners became victims of Nazi persecution.

Switzerland has faced a grow ing wave of international criti-cism following the release of documents in the US and Britain apparently suggesting it profi-teered from Nazi-looted wealth.

The British MP, Greville Jan-ner, vice-president of the World Jewish Congress and chairman of the Holocaust Educational Trust, has already called oo Switzerland to make a signifi-cant gift to Jewish charities in recompense. A trust spokeswoman said yesterday it was clear from the Swiss report that names of account holders had been known.

"A priority must be to reveal the names and they must do it for all the accounts. They must start looking for their heirs or survivors and if they cannot be found then the money in the accounts should be given to the World Jewish Restitution Or-ganisation," she said.

The report was published yesterday as Switzerland finally oamed the nine-member team of experts who will begin an investigation next month into the country's activities during the Nazi regime.

The commission will be headed by Jean Francois Bergier, e history professor from Zurich. It includes three other Swiss historians and a Swiss lawyer and human rights investigator, Joseph Voyame. There are also four foreign historians, including the Israeli Saul Friedlaeoder.

Conscripts who don't measure up must fight the flab in Belarus



Wait in line: A doctor checks a conscript's centre of balance at a recruiting centre in Minsk, the capital of Balarus, 42 per cent of whose military conscripts have been declared unfit for service because of poor health

Photograph: Vasily Fedosenko/Reuters

## Taiwan sues over Clinton slush-fund claim

**Stephen Vines** Hong Kong

We must have a hit a raw nerve", says Ying Chan, a New-York-based journalist who is facng an unusual criminal libel suit filed by a leading member of Taiwan's ruling Kuomintang party, backed by President Lee

Teog-hui. The raw nerve was a story in the Chinese-language oews weekly Yazhou Zhoukan alleging Liu Tai-ying, a leading Kuomintang official, offered an illegal \$15m (£10m) contribution to President Bill Clinton's re-election fund. Mrs

Chan believes Taiwanese contributions to the Democratic Party dwarf the controversial funds supplied by the Indonesian Lippo group.

Also named in the suit is her

Taiwanese colleague, Hsieh Chung-liang, and Chen Chao-ping, e political consultant who has now stated he was the main source for the story. Mr Chen was one of four people present at the meeting with former White House aide Mark Middletoo during which the moo-ey was allegedly offered. Mr Chen was oot named in the story but has decided to go

tioo from the Democratic Party, which faces e growing number of accusations of illicit funding from Asian sources. US parties are not permitted to obtain funding from abroad. "This story is like a centipede", says Mrs Chan. "There are so many legs, every week brings

new informatioo". She would like to get back to reporting it, but has been waylaid by the criminal libel suit. which carries a maximum penalty of two years in jail as well as fines. The action is also

"This is clear legal and pocontremely costly. Mr Liu, who
launched the suit, is Chief FiChan who is in Hong Kong to

friends with the chequebook.

There has been no legal ac- nance Officer of the Knom- attend a libel seminar and coointang, one of the world's richest political parties. Although the party has financial muscle, it is not a regular litigant. The Knomintang is not named in this suit but is behaving as a participant by having its spokesman comment oo aspects of the case and by calling a meeting of its central committee to endorse

> Far more unusual is the endorsement given by President Lee, who usually remains aloof

from matters of this kind.

sult legal edvisers. She is preparing for another hearing on 28 January and hopes this will provide an opportunity for Mr Liu to withdraw the ectioo. The pro-Kuomintang media

suggest Taiwan is entitled to all means at its disposal to gain influence overseas in the face of diplomatic isolation and China's efforts to keep the island out of the international arena. Socalled "money diplomacy" has long been a mainstay of Taiwan's foreign policy. But the government denies that it resorts to illegal means to win

**Parents** deride sex and violence codes

Rupert Cornwell Washington

After years of pressure from the government, America's televisioo industry yesterday an-oounced the first-ever classification system for its programmes. But even before it was unveiled, critics insisted the new scheme was too lax to be effective.

The voluntary code, which will take effect in the next two mooths, is closely modelled on the existing classification system for films. Six categories will apply to all entertainment programmes, ranging from "TV. G", or suitable for all ages, to "TV-M", for people aged 17 and over. All children's programmes will be labelled either "TV-Y" suitable for all children, or TV-Y-7', recommended for

children aged seven or more. The logo will appear in tele-vision listings and guides, and be shown for 15 seconds in the top left-hand corner of the screen at the start of each programme. It will be repeated during programmes lasting an hour or longer, only news and sport

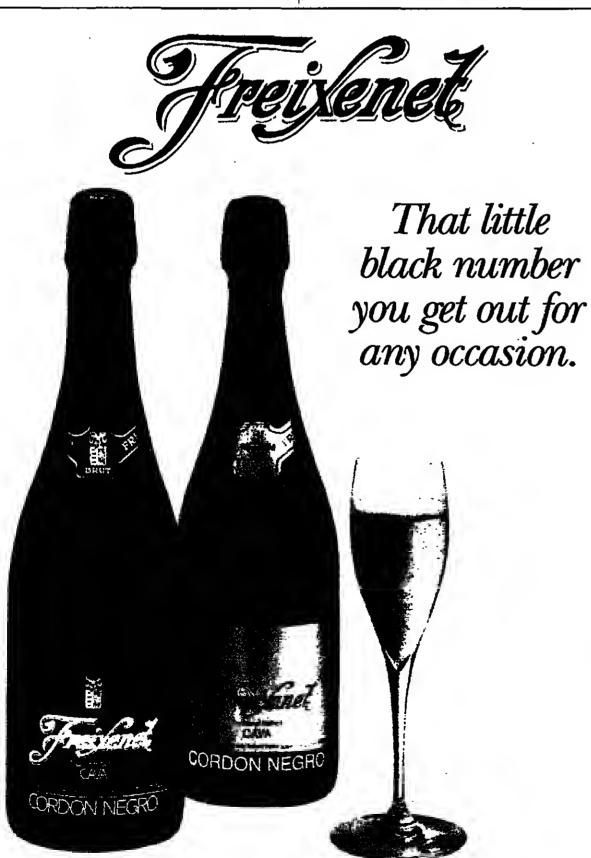
will be exempt.

The guidelines however were instantly denounced by children's advocacy groups, who argue they are far too vague on a programme's contents. Unlike film classifications, set by an independent body, the TV categories will be decided by the TV companies themselves - a process critics liken to putting a fox in charge of the chicken

coop.

Parents' organisations are demanding specific gradings for sex, violence and bad language. "What parent in their right mind would accept a package at the front door labelled suitable for a 10-year-old and hand it to a child without further inspection?", said Gary Bauer, head of the conservative

Family Research Council. But Jack Valenti, President of the Motioo Picture Association of America, said the industry would only accept its own voluntary system, and would fight any alternative in the courts.



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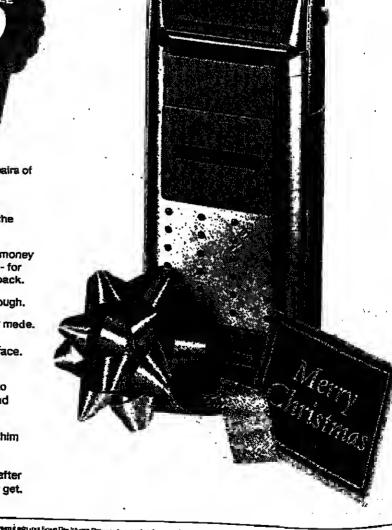
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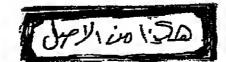
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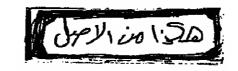
Of course, you could play safe and get him another pair of socks this year.

But just try returning them to the shop after 90 days' use and see what reaction you get.

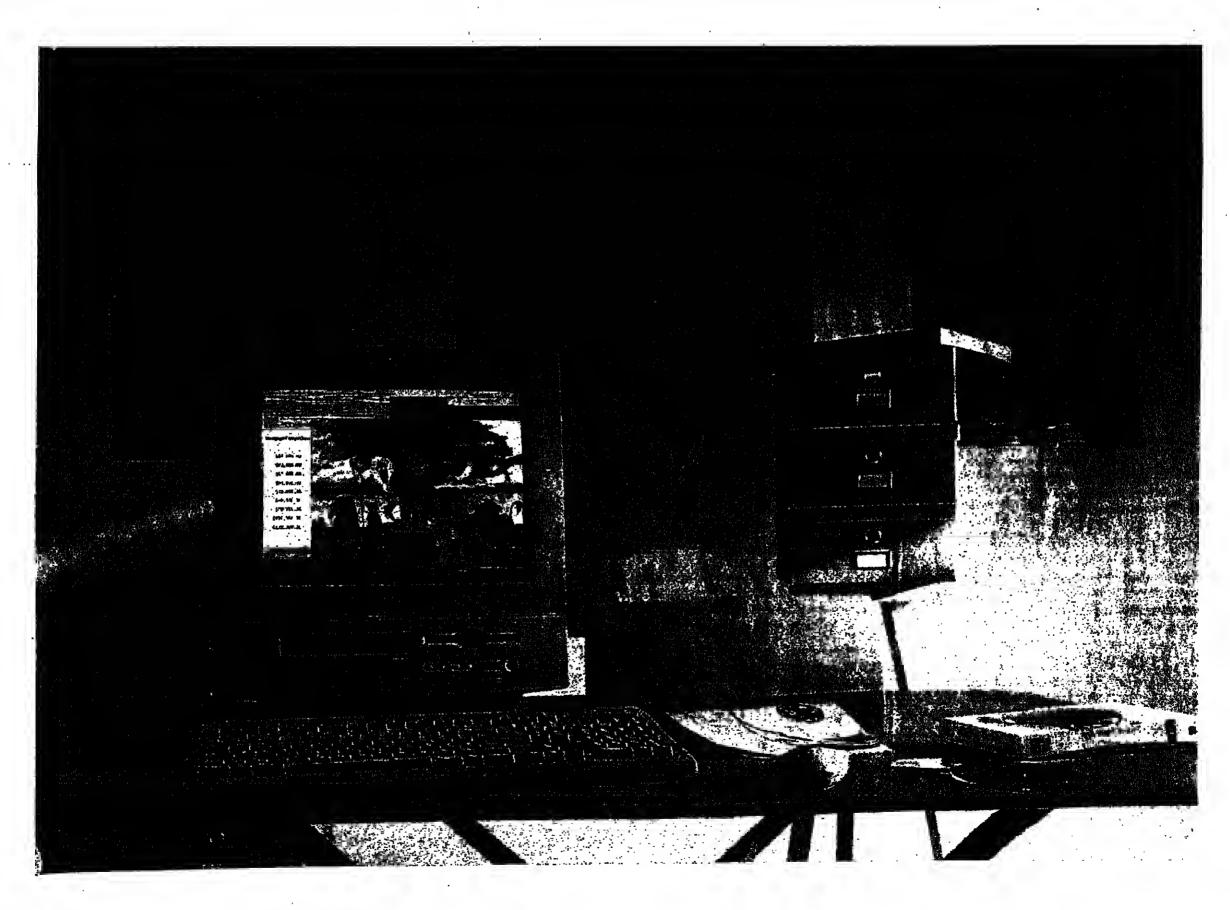


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# Virgin's image reflects religious fervour in Clearwater Bleak mid-winter for

Clearwater, Florida (AP) — Carrying rosary beads and cameras, thousands of worshippers are flocking to the wall of a black glass building where they believe they see the image of the Virgin Mary.

"It's quite amozing. It's very spiritual, very peaceful," receptionist at Seminole Finance, the two-storey building in central Clearwater where the rainbow-coloured image was first noticed on Tuesday. Some said they drove 200 miles from south Florida for

People are making shrines, bringing gifts, candles, flowers, statues Some have been overwhelmed and fainted," said police spokesman Wayne Shelor. We have the infirm, the disabled in wheelchairs, the blind. They're coming 500 at

The image, about 50 feet wide and 35 feet tall, bears a striking resemblance to a mantle-covered figure, head slightly bowed. It stretches outside of the building. Shades of purple, blue, yellow and green wash across the mirrored surfoce like a stained glass window, swirling into a robe-draped figure with downcast head.

No one had an explanation. but glass experts planned an inspection to determine if chemicals or mineral deposits from sprinklers caused it. Joe Mannion, o spokesman

for the local Roman Catholic Diocese of St Petersburg. nrged caution. "Everyone should exercise a great deal of healthy scepticism." But believers needed no

explanation. To them it's a Christmas miracle. "It was like you're in an angel's arms and the light of Christ was above and around me," Barbara Boyer said of

her experience. Businesses nearby say the image has been developing since the Thanksgiving holiday in late November. **Rut it was not until Thesday** that a customer asked if it had been painted on the

"Nobody painted



# Bethlehem, with no tree in the square

Bethlehem

It looks as if the little West Bank town of Bethlehem will have to

do without a tree this Christmas. The good Christians of Fin-The good Christians of Fli-land sent a 12-metre fir to stand in Manger Square across from the Church of the Nativ-ity, Jesus's traditional birth-place. When it arrived at Ashdod port this week, the Israeli authorities refused to let it into the country.

Bethlehem has been under Palestinian self-rule for the past 12 mooths. Since the Palestinians have no port, imports from Europe have to pass through Israel. The Finnish tree was sent back on the next boat.

The mayor of Bethlehem, Elias Freij, yesterday con-demned the ban as "narrowminded and provocative". Israel sent an Israeli replacement. Mr Freij promptly sent it back. "It was dead," he said indignantly. "I told them to throw it away."

The Israelis say they stopped the Finnish fir oo purely pub-lic health grounds. Eldad Landes, director of plant protection services in the Ministry of Agri-culture, said it was forbidden by law to let foreign conifers into

"The risk," he explained, "is that the trees might carry insects or fungus that doo't exist in this country. They could endanger all our forests and our agricul-ture. The Finns have been aware of this ban for five years now. They wouldn't let us send Israeli trees to Finland for the

same reason." Mr Landes added that Israel was ready to give Mr Freij another tree if the first offering was not to his satisfaction. "Of course," he said, "he won't accept it. It's all politics."

The 78-year-old mayor has accepted a salignment of the said.

political problems this Christmas oo the home front too. Palestinian activists have strung pendants across Manger Square with the portrait of Abu Jihad, co-ordinator of Palestinian resistance in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, who was assassi-oated by Israeli commandos in Tunis in 1988.

Abu Jihad is a Palestinian folk hero, but he has oothing to pictures are against the Christmas spirit," Mr Freij, anember of the Greek Orthodochurch protested. "We are goin to take them down."

Similar portraits of Yasser Arafat, however, will tay up. The Palestinian Presient, a devout Muslim, is coring to Bethlehem with his AralChristian wife, Suha, for minight mass on Christmas Eve.

Bethlehem's second lalestinian Christmas promiseto be a hleak affair. According Mr Freij, who has been mayor 7:25 years, the hard-up Paleshian Authority has given them oth-ing for the celebrations. Nchas organised Christendom.

But the mayor is nothing in not an optimist. He is looing forward to 2000, a Christian sty year. Next spring he planto launch a \$200m appeal in lu-rope and the Americas to mae the run-down, neglected old cy worthy of the millennium. Till then, the good Christias

of Finland are sending a Fath-Christmas to distribute pn sents in Manger Square oer Tuesday night. God rest yo merry, gentlemen.

# Santa strapped for cash

Abigail Schmeiz Reuter

Stockholm — Santa's little helpers have downed tools at North Pole post offices in Greenland and Iceland, leaving piles of children's Christmas letters unanswered and thousands of dreams unfulfilled.

Carefully penned letters full of Christmas requests which are sent to Santa every year by children from all over the world ment spending cuts.

"Kids can send a letter to Santa but they won't get an answer," Siri Kveller, of the San-

ta Claus of Greenland Foun- Pole in Iceland, has taken over dation said. "The more letters some of the joh and is cam we answered, the more we got and we simply can't afford it."

Two years ago, official funding for the project was withdrawn and the service stopped. Now the letters are put into stor-

age - mostly unopened. Children who address their letters to "Santa Claus, North Pole, Iceland" probably won't have much luck either. The state-sponsored Icelandic tourism board, which once answered the letters, was forced by budget cuts to stop the propaigning to make the country Santa's "rightful home". Swi den, Finland, and Canada als claim resideocy rights. Children who write to th

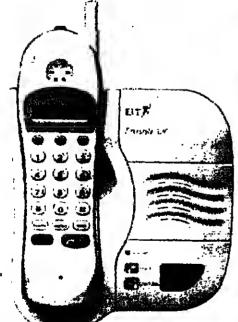
Finland address have a bette chance of getting a reply, he even then it is luck of the draw The post office's Saota project received 600,000 letters th year and staff say it is imposs hle to answer them all.

The spirit of Christmas live on in Sweden, however. The post office receives up 80,00 letters a year and each one is an

# Give something that's bound to get a good reception.

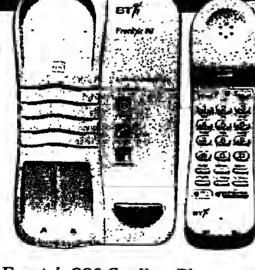
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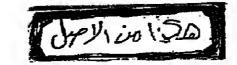
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its Dark Ages - Marcello Mastrojanni was the most sheerly in-

dispensable film star of the

entire post-war period. Though he made his first appearance on screen as an adoescent in 1939, in Carmine Gallone's Marionette, and could be glimpsed in scores of films (sometimes as little more than an extra) before he achieved real and enduring fame, his hey-day as an actor, the Sixties and Seventies, coincided with that of the European art cinema, the cinema of the French nouvelle vugne, of Bresson, Bunuel and Bergman and of his own compatriots Fellini, Antonioni and Visconti. and it is with that haleyon period that he will always be associated. Like that of the films in which he starred, Mastroianni's public image was imbued with a superficially glamorous panache. Yet, as was equally true of his films, that external romantic allure was gnawed at from within by a psychological and even sexual am- and in Ettore Scola's mawkish

biguity present even in his earliest, jeune premier rolcs. There was noting shallow

about Mastroianni. His dark, matinée-idol facial features were humanised and spiritualised by more than a hint of melancholic insecurity. And to those for whom he represent-ed the crudely sexist epitome of the "Latin Lover" - a more intellectual Rossano Brazzi, perhaps - it may come as a surprise to discover just how many of the characters he played, during an unusually lengthy and pro-lific career, were designed to undermine the cliché.

In Mauro Bolognini's curious Il Bell'Antonio (1961), for example, his provincial philanderer turned out to be sexually impotent; in Pietro Germi's Divorzio all'Italiana (Divorce Italian Style, 1962) he played a vain, languorous baron with greasy waxed moustaches and a hideously unbecoming hairnet; in Jacques Demy's L'Evencment le plus important depuis que l'homme a marche sur la lune (The Most Important Evert Since Man Walked on the Moon, 1974) be was the planet's first pregnant man; in. Allonsanfan (which was also made in 1974 by the Taviani brothers: that odd title, incidentally, is a slangy corruption of "Allons, enfants...", the open-ing words of La Marseillaise) he was a weary revolutionary re-

recall the parrative of an early neo-realist film. Born of a desperately impoverished peasant family, he was sent to a German labour camp during the Second World War, effected a daring escape and went into hiding in an attic in Venice. Drifting into the theatre in 1948, while still at university, he started to acquire a reputation for himself as a promising member of Luchino Visconti's prestigious repertory company, for which he acted in Shakespeare, Goldoni, Chekhov and Tennessee Williams. In-evitably, though, he would focus solved to make sense of his life; his attentions on the cinema, which was then enjoying an ex-traordinary recrudescence in his native country.

if widely admired Una Giorna-

he played a lonely, disgraced ho-mosexual befriended by a neigh-houring housewife (Sophia

Just as the world's poets,

novelists and dramatists have

almost always elected to portray

Don Juan at any period but that

of his vigorously luhricious

prime - Don Juan as an infant,

as an adolescent, as an ex-

hausted old codger - so the di-rectors with whom Mastroianni

frequently worked tended to di-

vert his apparent donjuanesque

suavity and good looks to their

own equivocal ends. And it

was to his credit, as the least nar-

cissistic of film stars, that he so

readily subordinated his own

ed male actor of the Italian cin-ema, his childhood and youth

As befits the most celebrat-

vanity to their vision.

Loren!)

ta speciale (A Special Day, 1977)

For many years, in now forgotten comedies and melo-dramas, he played good-looking working-class heroes, skirtchasing taxi drivers and smalltime swindlers. But, by 1958, when he had completed both Visconti's exquisitely stylised adaptation of Dostoevsky's White Nights (Le Notti Bianchi, in which he co-starred with Maria Schell and Jean Marais) and Mario Monicelli's delightfully dizzy farce, precisely what one



orgettable: Mastrolanni as the distillusioned gossip columnist and Anita Ekberg in La Doke Vita (1960)

might imagine an Italian Ealing comedy to be, I soliti ignoti (generally, if crassly, translated into English as Big Deal on Madonna Street, with Toto and Vittorio Gassman), the parameters of his career had been

Mastroianni performed in

scores of films, an astonishing-ly high proportion of which were made by major or, at least. prominent directors: Jules Dassin (La Loi, 1958, or, in English, Where the Hot Wind Blows - poor Mastroianni was never lucky with his English titles); Michelangelo Antoninni (he played a cynically disabused novelist in La Notte, 1961); Louis Malle (as Brigitte Bardot's theatre director in Vie Privée, A Very Private Affair, 1961, a supposedly scathing hut ultimately unpersuasive dissection of the whole Bardot phenomennn): Valerio Zurlini (the very moving Cronaca familiare of 1962):

Elio Petri (La Decima Vitima,

firm believer that it was meant

The Tenth Victim, 1965); John Boorman (Leo the Last, 1970, a pseudo-Brechtian fable in which he was cast as a deposed prince who fetches up in Notting Hill Gate, of all unlikely spots); and Roman Polanski (What?, 1973). He was both poignant and hi-larious as a flatulent, suicidal gastronome in Marco Ferreri's once notorious La Grande Bouffe (1973). And, in the cycle of frothy comedies in which he was regularly featured opposite Sophia Loren (Yesterda), Today and Tomorrow, Marriage Italian Style, The Priest's Wife, etc), he could justifiably claim to be the Italian Cary Grant. .

There is, of course, a name missing from the list, which is that of Federico Feilini, with whom Mastroianni enjoyed so close a personal and profes-sional relationship that, in their later lives, the two men, by a hizarre but unt unique phennmenon of physical convergence, actually came to bear an

lively in style, rich in context,

original and penetrathin in its.

criticism. Then in 1994 came Henry Wood: maker of the

Proms, again the product of fresh research. It is by these sub-

uncanny resemblance to each other (as also happened with François Thuffaut and his filmic alter ego. Jean-Pierre Léaud). He was unforgettable as the disillusioned gossip columnist in La Dolce Vita (1960); became less Fellini's alter ego than what might be called his alter egoïste as the movie-director protago-nist of 8'a (1963); played the sumptuously named Snaporaz, whisked through a gaudy treadmill of militant feminism in La Città Delle Donne (City of Women, 1979); was profoundby touching (especially for those of us who had known him young) as an ageing, dishevelled variety-hall trouper in Ginger and Fred (1986, opposite the director's wife and alter egoene, Giulietta Masina); and made a hrief valedictory cameo in the Maestro's penultimate film, the semi-documentary Intervista (Interview, 1987, scandalously

unreleased in this country, al-

though now available on video),

the Penguin Dictionary of Music, did I have the chance to know

purpose, despite fast increasing

frailty. Each meeting at his Ox-

ford house had a clear objective.

Not a moment was wasted. We

would begin in his well-ordered

study, papers laid out read

completing our task before cof-

fee was permitted next door in

the light-filled breakfast room.

often joined by his wife Betty.

The tempting diversion of gos-

sip or conversation was never al-

lowed to interrupt the matter in

hand. Arthur knew his time was

short but, equally, he valued the

mality and makes no distinction

between aequaintance and

friendship, Arthur Jacobs re-

tained an old-fashioned respect

for these boundaries, reserving

his private thoughts for those

closest to him but showing a shy,

almost blunt warmth to those

outside that circle which was all

the more rewarding for being

In an age which eschews for-

time of others.

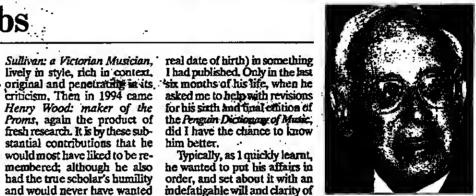
him better.

Photograph: Ronald Grant Archiv whose highlight was the affec-tionate and affecting reunion.

almost 30 years on, of the two stars of La Dolce Vita. Mastroianni and Anita Ekberg. For virtually four decades now, the principal methodolo-gy of film criticism has been the Auteur Theory, which postulates the director as the true and, indeed, sole anthor of a im. If ever a corresponding Ac-teur Theory were to be evolved, however, then Marcello Mastrojanni would deserve to be accorded one of the most elevated niches in its Pantheon. Without him, the history of the contemporary European cinema is simply inconceivable.

Gilbert Adair

Marcello Vincenzo Domenico Mastroianni, actor. born Fontana Liri, Italy 28 September 1924; married 1950 Flora Carabella (one daughter; and one daugh-ter by Catherine Denewe); died



earned. Shortly before his death, still questing for the new, he had hoped to get to English National Opera. To his own regret, and to those of us who hoped to see him there, it was not to be.

Arthur David Jacobs, musicologist and critic: born Manchester 14 June 1922; member of the Editorial Board, Opera 1961-96; Professor, Royal Academy of Music 1964-79; Head of the Music Department, Huddersfield Polytechnic 1979-84, Professor 1984-96; Founder and Editor, British Music Yearbook (formerly Music Yearbook) 1971-79, Advisory Editor 1979-83; Visiting Fellow, Wolfson College, Oxford 1979, 1984-85, 1991-92; married 1953

# **Professor** Dragoslav Srejovic

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To historians interested in ancient civilisations of southeastern Europe, Dragoslav Srcjovic was known as "the ar-

chaeologist with golden fingers". His talent and Intuition led him to several important finds which not only enriched previous knowledge but opened en-tirely oew vistas. Thanks to his enthusiasm and dauntless determination, his erudition and impeccable methodology, huge steps forward were made in the steps forward were made in the study of archaeology in Serbia and Montenegro. This meant, as well as excavating new sites, making the evideoce available through scholarly publications and international gatherings and, above all, training new generations of students.

Srejovic was born in 1931 in Kragujevac, Serbia, a town best known for the cruel treatment of its civilian population during the Second World War - including 300 schoolboys taken out of their classrooms and shot by the Germans in Octo-ber 1941. After schooling in his native town, he studied archaeology at the University of Belgrade, where he also started teaching, completing his doctoral dissertation in 1964 and becoming professor of Pre-historic Archaeology in 1976.

Aware of the wealth of sites to be explored, Srejovic directed his activity to prehistorie localities as well as to those of late Antiquity and the early Christian period. Among the first, his most spectacular find, between 1965 and 1970, was the extensive Mesolithic settlements on the right hank of the Danube, above the Iron Gates. Named after the main locality, Lepenski Vir, and dating from c6700BC to 5500BC, they contained evidence of a flourishing culture with much monumental stone sculpture. His book about them, Europe's First Monumental Sculpture: new discoveries at Lepenski Vir. was puhlished in English in 1972 He also wrote the entry on Lepenski Vir for Macmillan's

Dictionary of Art (1996). From 1975, in spite of limited resources, he persevered in his search for the palace com-plex of Romuliana built by the Emperor Galerius (305-311) in honour of his mother Romulahut. He suspected that it lay at Gamzigrad, in the Timok valley in eastern Serbia (the former Roman province Dacia Ripensis). Following several fruitful excavations, he was proved right by the discovery of a monumental inscription, Felix Romuliana, in 1984.

Most receotly, while continuing his study of Gamzigrad, his bunch took him to a remote site at Sarkamen, oear Negotin, where he expected to reveal the remains of a palace built by the Roman emperor Maximinus Daia (307-314), nephew of Galerius. After three difficult terial help, his team of young archaeologists unearthed ample evidence that their teacher's thoughts were correct.

Only a month before his death and already seriously weakened by illness, Srejovic presented an impressive find of ewellery and other items confirming that yet another important site, that of Dacia Ripensis, was waiting to be explored.

Zaga Gavrilovic

Dragoslav Sreiovic, archaeologist: born Kragujevac, Serbia 8 Oc-tober 1931; Professor of Prehis-1984-85, 1991-92; married 1953 Betty Upton Hughes (two sons); died Oxford 13 December 1996.

### **Professor Arthur Jacobs**

Arthur Jacobs was one of the leading writers on music of his generation. Although he never occupied the position of music critic on a major newspaper, his writings, characterised by the forthrightness with which he always expressed himself and his impatience with any sort of affectation or pretension, were distributed across a wide range of media, from the daily, weekly and monthly press to books. both popular and scholarly.

Born in Manchester in 1922, and educated at Manchester Grammar School and at Oxford. Jacous arought to the London musical scene what was firmly an outsider's consciousness, in many ways a great strength but perhaps his Achilles' heel as far as the advancement of his career was concerned. He several times began to establish himself as a critie for a London newspaper but was then passed over when it came to the possibility of a longer-term appointment. A directness that could sometimes come close to the ahrasive, though rarely ap-plied when not richly deserved, did not always endear him to others in his younger days.

He had begun his London career writing for the Daily Ex-press, in 1947. He had a spell with the Errame Standard, and

as a freelance wrote as second critic for the Financial Times and later the Sunday Times, as well as for the Jewish Chronicle. He was a regular writer for the monthly Musical Times, and for a while was acting editor, but for one reasoo or another was never asked to succeed formally to the editorial chair. In 1962 he joined the editorial hoard of Opera, where for 10 years he was influential as deputy editor, and for much longer than that, indeed right up to the present, as a leading critic. He was a passionately openwide in his minaea critic. knowledge and sympathetic, though by no means uncritically so, to new music and oew ideas with a progressive outlook

ni; matinée-kiol features humanised by a hint of insecurity

to match his own. Jacobs had a strong mission to hring good, clear writing and dependable information about music to a wider public. His Penguin New Dictionary of Music, published in 1958 and still going strong (its sixth edition came out earlier this year), is a typical product in its brisk, no-nonsense manner. This is Penyuin Chorul Music Symposium (1963). I had the privilege

The Pan Book of Opera (1964), a valuable learning experience, for a young writer, in the application of scholarly method to writing for a broad readership, not to mention his passion for accuracy and precision. His last reference work was a Penguin Dictionary of Musical Performers (1990). In 1970 he conceived the idea of a Music Yearbook,

putting together an amhitious

plan for a comprehensive ref-

erence work about musical life, which immediately proved to be a valuable and soon an essenlife. He edited what is now the British Music Yearbook from 1972 to 1979, as well as a Music Education Handbook in 1976. These were energetic years; his productions also included a Short History of Westem Music, no less, published in 1972. During this time he was teaching at the Royal Academy of Music, hut in 1979 he took the opportunity to return for a time to the north as Head of Music and later Professor at Huddersfield Polytechnic. He only one of several reference or also taught as guest professor at semi-reference paperbacks he a number of institutions in produced. It was followed by a the United States, Canada and

Australia. Opera was always at the cenof helping him with the next, tre of his interests. He was a

Francis Powys, novelist, 1875; Sir Robert Gordon Menzies, statesman,

1894; Robert Jemison Van de Graaff,

physicist and inventor, 1901. Deaths:

to be fully understood, and that meant it should be prescoted in English to Englishspeaking audiences. He was a good linguist himself and trans-lated more than 20 operas, from Italian, French, German and Russian, in a fluent and direct style that sometimes betrayed (though not ofteo inaptly) his early love of Gilbert and Sullivan (the subject of his first book, in 1951).

Typically, they covered a range of composers from Monteverdi (L'incoronazione di Handel, Berlioz, Rossini and Tchaikovsky. He wrote the lifor Nicholas Maw's One Man. Show (1964). Jacobs somehow managed,

among all this diversity of writing and editing, to pursue serious scholarly research. He had a spell as visiting scholar at Wolfson College, Oxford, and decided to settle in Oxford for his last years. He appeared regularly at meetings of the Royal Musical Association, always ready to ask awkward questions. His chief passion was for the late Victorian era. He followed up his early Sullivan book with a full-scale, authoritative hiographical study in 1984, Arthur

stantial contributions that he would most have liked to be remembered: although he also had the true scholar's humility and would never have wanted any of his writings to be called definitive". He had further books planned when he became ill; he faced this with characteristic candour and courage, strengthened by the loving su port of his wife Betty, whom he had married in 1953, herself a hretto, after Saki's short story, journalist then working for a paper in New Zealand, where she had long lived. Stanley Sadie

> Like countless others, I grew up with Arthur Jacobs's Penguin Dictionary of Music as a vademecum which saw me through every music exam and beyond, from correspondence in which, with great tact, he would point

writes Fiona Maddocks. In professional life, I knew Arthur slightly for many years, from en-counters at the first night operas he so assiduously attended or out an error or fact or a disputed date (such as Placido Domingo's

# Ban on Amnesty radio advertising upheld

Regina v Radio Authority, ex parte Bull and another, Court of Appeal (Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Aldous Lord Justice Brooke)

Campaigning against a government in order to persuade it to change its laws nr policies was a "political" activity, the radio advertising of which was prohibited by section 92 of the

Broadcasting Act 1990. The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by David Neill Bull and Nigel Wright against the decision of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court on 4 July 1995, refusing their application for judicial review of the decision of the Radio Authority oo 7 October

advertising by Amnesty In-ternational (British Section). The ban was imposed under section 92(2)(a) of the Broadcasting Act 1990, which prohibits the inclusion in a licensed service of:

1994 to ban further radio

(1) Any advertisement which is inserted by or on behalf of any body whose objects are wholly or mainly of a political nature; (2) Any advertisement which is directed towards any political end.

The applicants were respec-

LAW REPORT

20 December 1996 tively the director and chairman

of the council of the British Section of Amnesty International, an unincorporated association founded in 1961 to promote awareness of human rights. They contended that Amnesty's objects were principally humanitarian and non-political.

The authority approached the matter on the basis that: In order to determine whether the objects of AIBS are wholly or main-ly political, the Authority consider whether each of those objects is prin-cipally aimed at securing a change of the United Kingdom law or the law of any foreign country, or a reversal of government policy or ad-ministrative decisions in the UK or abroad or at persuading the UK govern-erument or any foreign govern-ment to alter its policies or to adopt particular policies.

Oo this basis, the authority decided that Amnesty's objects were "mainly political". Nigel Pleming QC and Peter Duffy and Sean Wilken (Bindman & Ptrs) for Amnesty, David Pannick QC and Dinah Rose (Allen & Overy) for the

"objects", "wholly or mainly" or "political". Their proper meaning was important in

determining this appeal. Where a body had formally set out its objects, as Amnesty had, one would expect the au-

thority to decide, at first instance, whether those objects fell within section 92(2)(a) by doing no more than ex the statement of its objects. Where there was doubt as to whether the formal statement reflected the true position or where it was not possible to determine the position by merely looking at the objects, the authority was entitled to examine any other material available. Where there was more than one object and some were political and others not. it might be essential to go beyond the formal statement of objects to see whether they were mainly political.

The meaning of "wholly or mainly" was not free from amhiguity. It had to be construed as part of a provision restricting Amnesty's freedom of com-Lord Woolf MR said there munication. The issue was not

justifiable but how it should be construed having regard to its effect. The ambiguous words should be construed restrictively. To fall within the provision, therefore, a body must be more than 75 per cent political.

In considering "political", assistance was provided by the case of McGovern v. A-G [1982] Ch 321 at 240, where Slade J was concerned with whether Amnesty was entitled to charitable status. He decided it was not, because all the main objects of the trust were in part political in that their purpose was: to further the interests of a particular political party; to procure changes in the laws of this or a foreign country, or to procure reversal of government policy or particular decisions of government authorities in this or a foreign country. No better guidance was

available as to what was here meant by "political" and his Lordship accepted the authority's argument that this was the correct approach.

Paul Magrath, Barrister

 This is the last law report for the Michaelmas Term. Law reports was no statutory definition of whether such a restriction was Hilary Term, on 13 January 1997 resume at the beginning of the

### Births, Marriages & Deaths

KIRKMAN: To Julia and Yuval, a daughter, Naomi Beatrice, on to December 1996. McDOUGALL: On 18 December to Sustriber liver) and forgul, a son, Lan Jergus Steele, a brother for

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS.
MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Penths, Memo-rial services, Wedding nuniversaries, In Memorism) should be vent in writing to the Gazetie Editor, The Independent, I Canada Squart, Canary Wharf, Lon-don E14 5DL, telephoned to 017t-293 2011 124-hour answering machine 0171-293 20121 or faxed to 017t-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette aurements Inotices, Ameticas, Forth ing marriages, Marriages) must be conung marriages, Marriages) must be cashmitted in writing (or faced) and are charged at £10 a line. VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Duke of Kent, Chancellor, Surrey Unit versity, presides at a Conferment of Deence Ceremons, at Guildford Cathedral

Changing of the Guard The Household Carabit Mountai Regiment manners the Queen's Life Goard at florre Guards, Ham: Namegen Compa-ts Grenadur Guards magnis the Queen's Birthdays

Miss Jenny Agutter, actress, 44; Mr Michael Beaumont, Scigneur of Sark, 64; Lord Brahazon of Tara, for mer government minister, 50; Mr Bilmer government minister, 30; Mr Bil-ty Bragg, rock singer and songwriter, 38; Mr Simon Channing, former chairman, London Philharmonic, 30; Sir George Coldstream QC, for-mer permanent secretary to the Lord Chanceller, 89; Mr Malcolm Cooper, marksman, 49; Mr Peter Criss, drummer, 54; Mr Charles Denton, Head of Drama, BBC Television, 59; Miss Bo Dereik, film actress, 39; Mr Bo Diddley, singer and guitarist, 68; Lord Howe of Aberavon guitarist, too Loro Fronces and CH QC, former Cabinet minister, 70; Mr Simon Hughes, cricketer, 37; Miss Lesley Judd, actress, 50; Mr James Lesley Judd, actress, 50; Mr James Leasor, author, 73; Sir Gavin Light-man, High Court judge, 57; Mr Donald Lindy, actor, 78; Miss Rachet Trickett, former principal, St Hugh's College, Oxford, 75; Mr John Whit-

Births: Nicholas Sanson, cartographer, 1599; Pieter de Hooch, painter, 1029: John Wilson Croker, politician and reviewer, 1760; William Burn, architect. 1789; Nicolas-Toussaint Charlet, designer and military chemist, 1805; Friedrich Kuhmstedt, organist and composer, 1809; Leopold von Meyer, planist, 1816; The Rev Edwin Abbott Abbott, beadmister and theologian, 1838; Tereva Schwartze, portrait painter, 1852: Harvey Samuel Firestone, in-

ignatius, bishop of Antioch, AD (1)7; Ambroise Pare, surgeon, 1590; Emmerich von Vattel, jurist, 1767; Thomas Hill, literary patron, proto-type of "Paul Pry", 1840: Henry Harland, novelist and editor, 1905; Emile-François Loubet, statesman, 1929; Erich Friedrich Wilhelm von Ludendorff, general, 1937; James Hilton, novelist, 1954; Moss Hart, playwright, 1901: John Ernst Steinbeck, novelist, 1968; Admiral Luis Carrero Blanco, Spanish prime min-ister, assassinated 1973; Bobby Darin (Roben Walden Cassotto), singer, 1973: Artur Rubinstein, pianist, 1982; Gwen Berryman, actress ("Doris Archer"), 1983; Bill Brandt, photographer, 1983. On this day: the first General Assembly of the Church of Scotland was held, 1560; Peter the Great's reformation of the Russian

Anniversaries

ney, chairman, the Really Useful Group, oc. Mr John Wilkins, Editor, calendar was announced, 1699; the last issue of the original Speciator was published, 1714; the State of Texas was incorporated in the United States, 1845; the State of South Carolina secoded from the American Union, 1860; the first London per-formance of the operetta Madame Pompadour was presented, 1923; Karl Renner became the first president of the new Austrian republic, 1945; the first atomic ice-breaker, the Lenin, began operating, 1959; Wla-dyslaw Gomulka, Polish Communist leader, resigned office after riots by workers, 1970; Romuald Spasowski, Polish ambassador to the US, was granted political asylum in the United States, 1981; two Townsend dustrialist, 1868; Lorenzo Perosi, priest and composer, 1872: Theodore wich, with the loss of six lives, 1982.

Today is the Feast Day of St Ammon and his Companions, St Dominic of Silos, St Philogonius and St

Lectures

National Gallery: Jacqueline Lewis. "Same Difference (iii): Van Dyck, Charity, and Reynolds, Lady Cock

Church appointments The following appointments have been announced by the Church of

The Rev Paul Avis, Victor, Stude: Canett, Paris-more with Herdison, and Revie with Netheress (Exciser); to be also Sub-Dean of Exciser Cathe-dral (Exciser).

The Rev Rudgey Biddle, Victor, Shrunshur, St George to be also Priest-in-charge, Be-ton, Montiord with Shrawardine and Fitz (Lichfield).

[Lithheld],
The Rev Michael Calaridge, Priest-st-charge,
Wellington, Christ Church: (a be Viear,
Wellington, Christ Church (Lichheld)).
The Rev Nicholas First, Team Viear, Ifield:
to be Priest-in-charge, Rusper with Colgale
(Chachaster). Chechester j. The Rev Jonathan Greener, Domestic Chap-

Lain to the Bohop of Trutte to be Vicar, Brighton Preston The Good Shephord (Check-

Brighton Presson The Good Shephard (Chehcoster).

The Rev John Harris, Vicur, Moldgreen: to
the Priest-mechange, South Oasen Christ
Church (Wakefield).

The Rev Paul Harrisy, Jean Vicar, Goiseley
with Esholt (Bradford): no be Rector, St Cutbert, Autoorth (Wakefield).

The Rev Mark Howarth, Vicur, Swaltham Prico, Sentilham Bultock and Reach: to be alvo
Rural Deam of Fordham (Ely).

The Rev Andrew Mitcham, Shrine Pricti,
Wakangham: to be Vicar, West Worthing St
John the Droma (Chichester).

The Rev Sancur Murgan, Currate, Peterhaven
and Kelsorable with Puddinghoe and Southesse: to be Priest-mechange, East Deam with
Freston and Jevangion (Chachester).

The Rev Meth Senith, Currate (NSM), Maybendge: to be Assistant Curate, Durrington
(Chachester).

# Let children sing carols and light the menorah

erald angels sing in David's City, shepherds watch poor men gathering winter fuel, and a Birmingham maths teacher gets upset. The sight of Muslim children singing Christian celebration songs proved rather too much for one Muslim teacher. Israr Khan cried out to Allah, the audience started booing, and Christian parents took offence. Hardly a great start to the season of goodwill.

Given the ongoing discrimination against Islam in Britain's schools, it is perhaps unsurprising that one fervent Muslim decided he had heard one "Oh Little Town" too many. The Government still insists – inappropriately – that all schools hold a daily act of Christian worship. And although the state funds Catholic schools, Church of England Schools and Jewish schools, there are still no Muslim schools with govern-

ment financial support.

Even so, for all that there may be genuine Muslim gripes against the hold of Christianity over state education, the Birmingham maths teacher went too far. There is nothing wrong with a good Christmas sing-song, and most families, whatever their religion, should he glad for their children to participate. School carol services tread a narrow line between being an act of Christian worship, a cultural celebration and educational experience. But so long as they tumble out on the right side of that line,

they should be a great experience for all the children concerned.

Forcing children to worship a foreign faith against their own or their parents wishes certainly isn't acceptable. But nobody does that. All parents are at liberty to withdraw their children. Nor can schools get away with assuming all their pupils are Christians these days. Teachers are mostly acutely sensitive to the different belief systems and cultural backgrounds of the pupils in their care.

Indeed, most schools already handle the modern clash of cultures admirably. The fact that the Government insists on state schools holding a daily acts of Christian worship does not make life easier. Compulsory Christian gatherings are inappropriate in most schools, where children come from all kinds of religious backgrounds, and many par-ents either don't believe in any God at all, call him by a different name, or have very strong views within a particular strand of Christianity.
In practice, though, most schools

sensibly sidestep the problem, by playing up the moral, ethical and cultural side of of assemblies, and playing down the belief. The procedures for opting out of the daily religious gathering are explicit and well known, so no child of another faith need endure hymnsinging and Jehovah-guiding if they don't want to. So while it would be far better if our state schools were secular institutions, as they are in France and



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the US, there is little point in drawing up battlelines over the issue.

Religious education is quite another matter. Learning about other religions and cultures, whether we choose to believe in them or not, is an essential part of a rounded education. RE is rightly a legal requirement. Christians should learn about Islamic traditions, Hindus about Jewish culture, and so on. Perhaps most important of all, totally secular children should have the chance to learn what it is they don't believe in. Moreover, to understand truly other religions and cultures, we need to

know not just what other people

believe, but how they believe. The rituals through which others worship and celebrate their faith are as much a part of religion as the names of the Gods they believe in. Teaching religion and culture through songs, stories and drama is probably the best way to communicate it to non-believers, particularly young ones. After all, religions are not sets of propositions, they are stories from which religions are not sets of propositions. ries from which cultures are generated which twine round each other like double helixes. Participating in a nativity play is a great way to understand the Christian faith, as a story, a drama, and a mythology, rather than a list of falsi-

fiable statements that you can choose to accept or reject.

The Christmas theatrical tradition in Britain twists back centuries, through pantos, mystery plays, mummers plays and nativities; the lessons are cultural as much as they are religious. As Mark Santer, the Bishop of Birmingham. points out, Christmas enters the minds and imaginations of the most secular Brit, not through discussion or lecture. "hut by the telling and hearing of stories, by the repetition of familiar carols and hymns, by looking at pictures. None of these describes the mystery of Christmas in a way that is either literal or exhaustive. All are more or less allusive or symbolic". Other religions should be taught and experienced in the same way. Christian children ean learn much from lighting the candles at Hanukkah, or watching the televised Mahabharata, the epic of Hindu stories.

But most schools know this already. They treat religious festivals as opportunities to educate, not to force worship. Many go to great lengths to accommodate the sensitivities of different religious groups. The words of Christmas carols are changed to avoid references to "the son of God," for the hirth of Jesus was after all the birth of a Muslim prophel. The Birmingham school at the centre of this week's religious clash celebrates other festivals such as the Festival of Light and Ramadan, as well as Christmas.

Mr Khan, the maths teacher, should have sat through the carol concert and enjoyed the singing, rather than per-ceiving the Christian songs as a threat to his own religion. And equally he should have looked forward to drawing the entire school into his own religious and cultural celebrations at other times of year. Still, perhaps Mr Khan's oulburst is actually all the proof we need that our cultures and traditions are not really that far apart. After all, we all get fraved and fractious at Christmas.

### Big brains but no common sense

My ivory tower is taller than your roory tower. Not content with the Varsity matches, the Boat Race, and many another ancient rivalry, Oxford and Cambridge are at it again. Oxford came top of the first research table for universities. But Cambridge think it's a cheat. Oxford only entered 91 per cent of its academics for assessment, while Canthridge entered 98 per cent. Oxford should have come third. But we shouldn't worry too much about precisely which came top; the most important thing is, the ratings confirm what we have always known: not even the best Oxbridge brains can come up with an answer everyone accepts.

### - LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

### Labour props up elective dictatorship

Sir: Yesterday I believed that the incorporation of the European . Convention on Human Rights was one of the reasons why a Blair government might be preferable to a Major government, Today I learnt ("Labour looks less liberal as power looms", 18 December) that, under Labour, when judges discover a breach of the convention all that will happen is that "consideration will need to be given by the government of the day and Parliament as to what action should be taken". This is boringly similar to the words of the old royal veto: The King will take thought of it."

The purpose of constitutional: reform is to control an elective dictatorship whose power has got out of hand. Constitutional reform undertaken without this motive is no more than better dressing of a shop window. It remains true, as Alan Beith said in 1991, that the Liberal Democrats are the only party willing to come into power committed to reducing their own Earl RUSSELL

House of Lords London SW1

Sir. As the Labour prime minister responsible for the winter of discontent", Lord Callaghan ("Labour fooled by the Tories Callaghan says", 19 December) should be the last person to advise Tony Blair on New Labour's future relationship with the trade unions.

If Labour gets defeated at the next general election, it will not be due to what the New Labour has or has not done, but because the Tories will, for the nth time, show the television footage of the "winter of discontent" and the unforgettable images of London streets littered with mountains of putrefying garbage and cemeteries with unburied bodies.

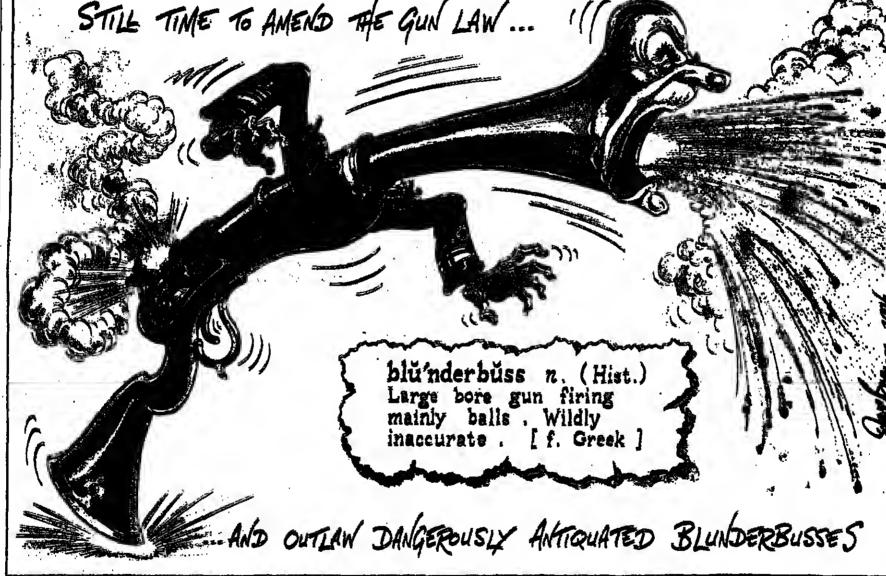
Thank you, Lord Callaghan, for your advice! M RIAZ HASAN

Sir: Yet again a crack at Slough this time in a millennium suggestion that it be destroyed (Letters, 18 December). Your correspondent R P Heinemann must never have been here - or had his or her eyes shut. How else is it possible to miss our spectacular Richard Rogers-designed Learning Resource Centre at Thames Valley University (featured in your pages l. our 14th-century manor house, Upion Court, the exquisite St Michael's Church and a host of other huildings - ordinary maybe,

but not evesores. Slough does have its less attractive areas, and too many people live in overcrowded homes. The solution is not wholesale destruction hut the release of housing capital money to allow councils to build again. This will only happen when we have a Labour government - which will be an occasion for real celebration. FIONA MacTAGGART Labour Parliamentary Spokesperson Slough, Berkshire

### Our jackpot

Sir. My husband and I have come up with a way of winning £2 on the lottery every week. We write our numbers down without buying a ticket and then pray the numbers don't come up. YVELAINE ARMSTRONG. Narberth, Pembrokeshire



### Peril of fat in the wrong places

Sir: Whilst one might understand the need for Jerome Burne to offer some Christmas cheer to the "circumferentially challenged", the assertion that being fat is healthy is a good example of how a superficial acquaintance with complex hiological data can lead to wholly incorrect conclusions ("Something

Big", 16 December).
Scientific evidence strongly supports the view that being overweight is associated with an increased risk of various diseases. including coronary heart disease (CHD), the second leading cause of mortality in this country. This is primarily because obesity

is associated with various adverse metabolie factors such as high blood pressure (hypertension), high hlood cholesterol, physical inactivity and diabetes - all powerful, independent risk factors for CHD. In other words, being overweight is of importance hecause of its association with other risk factors; if these factors are absent, being overweight is very much less important.

The problem is that a simple measurement of body weight provides only very crude information. Recent evidence suggests that the way in which fat is distributed may be the more important factor. There is an important distinction between android (central) obesity and gynaecoid (peripheral) obesity. Gynaecoid obesity is associated

with an exaggeration of the normal feminine fat distribution, ie fat deposited on the hips, thighs and huttocks. Although women spend a huge amount of time, money and

effort in trying to rid themselves of this fat, it is actually metaholically inert and not associated with a significantly increased risk.

In contrast, android or central obesity, the most common manifestation of which is the promberant helly in men, is strongly associated with a variety of coronary risk factors, including high blood cholesterol, diabetes and hypertension. So the key issue is not simply whether one is carrying too much fat, hut where the fat is distributed. Both Marilyn Monroe and Jane Russell were good examples of "voluptuous" women, with low-risk peripheral fat distribution.

Being fat is never healthy. The only comfort is that people can he fat in different ways, some of which are harmful and others of which are

Dr DAVID ASHTON Cardiac Medicine, National Heart & Lung Institute, Imperial College School of Medicine University of London

### The best ways to treat trauma

Sir: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) does not intend to fund two police forces to provide post-incident trauma counselling for their officers ("Police to get post-disaster counselling". 17 December)

However, HSE hopes to commission a critical review of research on the management of post-incident trauma with a view to is renewable energy anywhere near producing general advice for all employers. We are currently considering a number of proposals

including one from Glasgow Caledonian University, which is currently working with Strathclyde Police and the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Post-incident trauma can affect not only those caught up in major disasters but also employees in day to-day incidents such as workplace accidents. Guidance for employers

on how best to manage postincident trauma will not only help employees, it will also minimise the costs incurred by both employers and the National Health Service. Dr PETER GRAHAM Director of Health Directorate Health and Safety Executive

### Pay fair price for green electricity

Sir. The decision to offer a subsidy to schools to install an array of photovoltaic (PV) cells under the Scolar scheme is to he commended ("Solar power gets a plug in 100 schools", 14 December).

However, this must be seen in the context of the adverse market conditions under which renewable energy operates. The buying-in rate for individual private price paid for electricity by the when heavily subsidised by the non-fossil-fuel obligation (NFFO) | London WI

competitive.

Save Skye from

Sir: Mountains provoke strong

emotions in many people. The

proposed development of tourist

helicopter flights in the Cuillin of Skye ("Skye distress at threat from the skies", 12 December) has

mountaineering community that I

Although small in height, these

mountains create the sense of

heing in a truly wild place that is

hoth dramatic and very beautiful. Many thousands of people who

ove the Cuillin will be outraged at

the possibility of helicopters being

allowed to destroy such a rare and

precious environment for the sake

quick fix" tourism, and this case

precious landscapes really are safe

We can only hope that passion

of profit. This is the ultimate in

will set a precedent which will

determine whether our most

will be enough to save these

Access & Conservation Officer

British Mountaineering Council

Restart the week

Saturday, the other Monday to

why all those perverse printers

cannot create the same week.

ROBERT VINCENT

Andover, Hampshire

Sunday. There is no carthly reason

from exploitation.

JEREMY BARLOW

mountains.

Manchester

helicopters

raised passions in the

have rarely seen.

At the same time the NFFO is heavily biased towards wind power. This is a misuse of the NFFO, since it is effectively subsidising the electricity generators by enabling them to avoid paying a market price to private generators. It ensures that private generation is inherently uneconomical, helping to secure the energy utilities' monopoly position.

It is another instance in which

the UK stands apart from its EU partners, who offer market rates to private generators. The NFFO was designed to promote the development and wider use of renewable energy whilst also lowering energy demand, for example by making low-energy lightbulbs more comparable in cost to conventional bulbs.

In the long term this penalising of private generators could backfire on the energy utilities. As the technology of PVs etc improves and their cost falls, and as storage technology develops. private generators will find it costeffective to be independent of the grid. Already there are energyautonomous huildings in existence which should sound alarm bells in the marble halls of the energy utilities.

If we are serious about curbing carbon emissinns, this is an a matter of urgency.
Professor PETER F SMITH Planning Committee

anomaly which must be rectified as Sir: Could we not start by sorting out generators is roughly one-fifth the a single calendar for the millennium? (letters, 18 December) Chairman, RIBA Environment and average domestic consumer. Only For some years now one version has portrayed the week as Sunday to

### Gays need not fear growing old Sir: Your correspondents (16

December) have missed the point of the Anti-Gay debate. The issue is how to make gay/homosexual life meaningful. It is to do with ageing in a subculture that is dominated by (white middle-class) men who seem to spend their whole lives in discos, bars and gyms.

Mainstream gay culture's reaction to the issues Anti-Gay addresses is understandable because it reminds these folks that life under 30 is not infinite and that the failure to provide meaning for ourselves for the time after 30 is crucial.

There are too many young people who have decided to "live fast and die young" hecause they cannot fathom the idea of being gay and old. Aids educators will know what I am talking about. The point is not getting a life but getting a meaningful life. Current gay culture effectively creates a void filled with drugs, discos and gyms hut fails to address these issues.

Despite this, I'll stick to being gay because I will not accept the box the medical profession invented for people like myself some hundred years ago. **UDO SCHUKLENK** Preston, Lancashire

Sir: As a gay man and a lover of real cask heer I take exception to Desmond Coughlan's letter on gay hars and good beer (18 December). Maybe his local bar does sell a good pint of Guinness - which is a stout, not a beer anyway - but it is still fizzy pasteurised stuff. There is a strong element of macho lager-drinking in some strands of gay culture but this should not detract from the fact that there are plenty of lesbians and gay men who like cask-conditioned beer.

The fact that to drink it we have to go to bars that welcome people of all genders and sexualities provided they like a decent, wellkept pint - is probably no bad thing either. Neither tesbians and gays nor Camra members need ghettoising or eloseting. KEITH FLETT London N17

Sir: I had thought that The Independent would be spared the attentions of that busy band of correspondents who believe that the phrase "get a life" is both the height of wir and the ultimate rebuttal. Imagine my horror when I discovered Dr Alan Bullion's missive of 16 December. I beg you, do not permit Bullion and his fellow cliché-grinders room on your letters page. One fears that if thus encouraged they will never gain the wisdom to take their own advice. **CPRESTON** London

### Tory barbarians

Sir: You argue that Labour party policy on education is superior to that of the Tories, who are (you sardonically suggest) committed to grammar-school black gowns, canes and Latin verbs (leading article, 16 December).

Really? I think you need to rersa our rice and mutate your mutanda. Mr Blunkett announced only recently that he hopes to develop specialist language schools in every area, so that Latin and Greek (and a larger range uf modern languages] can be encouraged. Tory educationists have been no friends to the great ancient languages. Dr PETER JONES The Co-ordinating Commince for Classics Newcastle upon Tyne

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk). E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. appe cine-

# Out of touch by definition

Dukes don't mix with ordinary people, they just shake hands with them, so we can hardly be surprised when Prince Philip fails to understand their worries about a gun culture, says Paul Vallely

ou have the advantage of me. By now you will have heard - or had the opportunity to hear - the Duke of Edinburgh holding forth last night on Radio Five Live on the question of Dunhlane and cricket bats.

Let me insist at once, I would not have wanted to listen to what he said before writing this, even if the BBC had kindly sent me an advance tape. (Presumably they sent one to somebody to judge by the row in vesterday's newspapers). I have decided rather to enter into the spirit of the man himself, who makes a habit of wading in joyously unprepared and ill-informed, his prejudices streaming behind him like unfurled banners in a glorious old film of royalty as it should be.

Let me declare my own prejudice. I rather like the curmudgeonly old cove with his impatience, his lack of tact and his unerring ability to deliv-ery an epithet of unfailing political incorrectness in any given situation. He also keeps us journalists in work, prompting *The Sun* to one of its more inspired offerings: his characterisation of the Chinese as "slitty-cyed" on a visit to Peking was headlined "The Great Wally of China".

Having said that, perhaps the time has come when the 75-year-old Duke ought to be advised to alter the description in his passport under Occupation from "Prince of the Royal Household" to "retired". Let me explain why.

I met the Duke of Edinhurgh once. I met him,

though I'm not sure that he met me. I was the lowliest reporter in The Times newsroom wheo the Queen and the Duke came to visit. Worthies were lined up to meet the visitors. I was told to get on with my work. As a consequence, when Philip arrived I was the only person in the entire newsroom actually typing anything. The Duke, naturally enough, ignored the official line-up and came over to see me.

You have to be able to type pretty fast, I suppose," he pronouoced. It was not the most profound of conversational gambits. Had I of his wife's subjects which is significant. been the oldest occupant of the newsroom doubtless he would have said: "You must have seen some changes in your time." As consort to the monarch he is doomed to a lifetime of these

Who can wonder that from time to time something indiscreet pops out? And whenever something does he can rely on us loyal subjects of the fourth estate to re-chronicle his greatest

hits from 50 years of public life. He began in 1947 when, newly engaged to the heir presumptive, he asked a railway signalman about his promotion prospects; on being told it was a case of dead men's shoes Philip replied: you all descended from pirales?" and said in bad factor of recession.

Canada, "We don't come here for our health. We can think of other ways of enjoying ourselves."

Then there was his observation at the height of the recession in 1981: "Everybody was saying we must have more leisure. Now they are complaining they are unemployed." In 1993, visiting Lockerbie, where I I people on the ground had been killed by wreckage from the PanAm jumbo-jet bomb, he tactlessly observed: "People usually say that after a fire it is water damage that is the worst. We are still trying to dry out Windsor Castle." And in 1995 he asked a Scottish driving instructor: "How do you keep the natives off the booze long enough to

In part it is tactlessness. In part it is that he does oot give a bugger (sorry, ducal language is infectious). But in the main it is that he is, almost by definition, out of touch with the mood of the British public. The Duke does oot mix with ordinary society; he just shakes hands with it.

Take what he said about Dunblane last night (OK, so I have read a transcript). "Look," he "if a cricketer, for instance, suddenly decided to go into a school and batter a lot of people to death with a cricket bat, which he could do very easily, I mean, are you going to han cricket bats?"

To which Beverley Birnie, whose six-year-old son Matthew survived the shootings at Dunhlane, replied: "How many people can you kill in three-and-a-half minutes with a cricket bat? It is not the same as an automatic gun. You have to be realistic. I suspect he [the Duke] is coming from a world where guns are part of his life. But I am from a world where I have never seen a gun, never held one. I never had a reason to think about them.'

Guns are as everyday a part of Prince Philip's life as cricket bats, probably more so. It is his failure to make the leap in imagination from his own position to the one occupied by the vast bulk

t is a failure of his age - the House of Lords was last week full of other elderly aristocrats opposing gun law reform with anecdotes about their boyhood relationships with their gamekeepers. It is a failure of his class - none of those surrounding the royals seemed able to explain to them the distaste of the general public at the "blooding" of Prince William when he killed his first stag recently. It is a failure of the institution of monarchy itself, with its desperate attempt to combine tradition with modernity so that its modern image seeks to encompass pomp, concern about the environment and the loyal subjects of the Cayman Islands, "Aren't when the rest of us were immured in the feel-

Who but a royal could be surprised that gaps opeo up between public and courtly perceptions, with the public complaining when no royal attended the 1989 Lockerbie memorial service or visited the devastated ceotre of Manchester after the 1995 IRA bomb. Or that the Duke's son Charles is bewildered when he confesses oo television to adultery and finds that the public give him no Brownie points for honesty. Or that this week people find faintly risible the fact that his other soo Andrew has been despatched to Manila for talks with President Fidel Ramos on military and economic ties between the Philippines and

Britain. Randy Andy? Of course paradox has always been part of the charm of the energetic man who unhappily finds himself permanently defined by a wife and son more

important than himself. Philip was the foreign prince whom the old-Etonian courtiers of King George VI described as "rough, ill-tempered, uneducated and probably would he unfaithful" to the then Princess Elizabeth (interesting that for all the dirt-digging of the tabloids, and the predations of the US biographer Kitty Kelly, no evidence of his muchrumoured infidelity has ever been produced).

He is the president of the World Wide Fund for Nature who shoots things and supports the legalisation of the wory trade. He is the tireless worker. for a vast array of charities from playing fields for children to care for ex-servicemen - and yet he is popularly assumed to be careless of the

sensitivities of individual human beings. In the end it was the cricket bat which did for him. The full text of his radio remarks are a sensible enough contribution to the debate on gun control which the House of Lords has chosen to extend after the Bill's swift passage through the Commons. He made the point that the members gerous than members of a golf club. He argued that there are always going to be unstable people who are going to do monstrous things but that "taking it out on the rest of the population" is not necessarily the most rational of reactions. He insisted that his kind of shooting – game shooting – was a social activity which helped to maintain a balance in the environment. And he warned that laws made in electioneering haste may be repented in more dispassionate leisure. However, it was the grotesque piece of imagery he conjured - of a child being beaten

to death with a cricket bat - which was so singularly inapt and inept. "To think of the Queen coming up here and laying a wreath at our school and then hearing her husband say something like this sickens me, responded Ann Pearston, one of the anti-gun

Snowdrop Campaign organisers.

The politicians, of course, have had a fieldday. Tony Blair was characteristically Janusfaced: "He is entitled to his views and obviously we in the Labour Party have a different position on that," he told BBC1's Breakfast News.

attended the same Dunblane school, said on the BBC 's Today programme: "The views of one elderly aristocrat, based on a completely crazy view of a comparison between a cricket bat and a rapid-fire handgun, is not going to deflect Par-liament from doing what it believes to be right in the interests of public safety."

But he did not restrict himself to dismissing

Prince Philip as "an eccentric individual" whose comments had damaged his credibility enormously. He added: "I think these remarks are going to be counter-productive, because they will remind people that this argument is still going on and the House of Lords may well he planning to inflict defeats oo the Government.

It was not just the Duke of Edinburgh's inability to resist the colourful phrase and dramatic comparison which is most revealing. It is his inability - like that of his peers in the Lords -

to grasp that for the British public the argument is over. Most people understand the arguments about the need to balance the rights of minorities with the common good. They accept that most gun owners are responsible individuals.

But most of the public, having no personal The shadow Scottish Secretary George vested interests in the gun world, have performed Robertson put his finger on the real a risk/benefit analysis and its conclusion is clear. problem. Robertson, whose children And it is not just a response to Dunhlane. Handguns, public opinion is clear, contribute towards a wider culture of violence in contemporary Britain. And events over the past year - from Dunhlane, to the campaign by Frances Lawrence, the widow of the murdered head-master, to the whole host of incidents which daily soil the pages of our fear-hungry newspapers -

have persuaded people that it is time to act.

Perhaps only a gunman could not see that.

And Prince Phillip if he is anything is a gun man. Only two months ago he was provoking an outcry by declaring shnoting "an intelligent leisure" activity" for children. Over the past 30 years the Duke of Edinhurgh has shot, it is estimated, a tiger, two crocodiles, 60 wild boar, countless stags, rabbits and dncks and at least 30,000 pheasants. Perhaps if he had restricted himself to clubbing them to death with a cricket bat the world would be a safer place.

to make the leap of from his the one occupied by his wife's

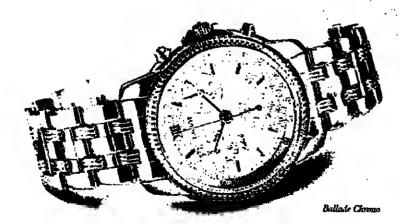
subjects





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The world is becoming smaller. Distances are diminishing. No mutter how varied different cultures may be, we are all citizens of the blue planet. In 142 countries all around the glabe, people rely on Tissot watches. For instance, on the Tissot Ballade Chrone: enticing elegance harmoniously combined with a sporty touch. Watch Tissot and watch the world.



and corbs among 195-15 of the 2

To boldly go in search of lost meaning (Another split infinitive there! You're working well have a large staff here at The Independent whose task it is to constantly

today, ladsi) monitor the English language for changes of meaning and to covertly insert split infinitives into my articles to gratuitously give offence to over-sensitive inform me that our language mavens.
Incideotally, I first came across this word maven in a

column in the Herald Tribune by the American writer Russell Baker, and finally discovered, after buying and selling a lot of dictionaries, that it was a Yiddish word meaning expert or connoisseur. I have since then seen it quite often in columns by Russell Baker. but have never heard the word used in my life. Whenever I have tried to use it, people either ignore me or say, "Mabel? What Mabel? I don't know anyone called Mabel!" So much for the supposed joys and advantages of a rich vocabulary. All my life I had been encouraged to believe that increased word power was a benefit. The opposite is true. All that is achieved by a rich vocabulary is to

gradually isolate you from

your fellow humans.

In fact, the large and industrious staff I have here at The Independent to help monitor changes in language vocabulary is, if anything, becoming poorer, with many words being marginalised and ghettoised, and suffering income deprivation.

They point, for instance, to the word "personality". You may find this hard to believe, but the word "personality" for a long time meant nothing more or less than "personality" - in other words, it referred to people's character, and by extension to people who had a lot of character. "He's got real personality!" we would say. Or, "He's a real personality!" caning that he was flamboyant or magnetic or charismatic in some way. Now, however, h has been devalued by the BBC and others in their strange use of the word in their Personality of the Year competitions. notably the BBC Sports Personality of the Year competition, which is traditionally won by the sports person who has the



Kington

least visible personality, and whose collected interviews would make a cure for

Curious, I asked my large and industrious staff if they had any other examples of words being shunted down a linguistic siding like this, and after they had raised their eyebrows at my old-fashioned use of railway imagery ("Are there any sidings left in Britain? Does anything get shunted into them?" says the pencilled note from my large and industrious staff. "We strongly advice you to use car-linked imagery from now on."), after that rap on the knuckles, they gave me a

short list of doubtful word usage which I found so thought-provoking that I thought I would park it on the forecourt and see if the public wanted to test-drive it. Here we go then. Quote There was a time

when "quote" was a slangy

word for "quotation". The Oxford Book of Quotes, we would say. Either way it referred to a phrase or saying or line of verse that had entered the language. Nowadays, "quote" simply means anything that any celebrity has said recently, interesting or oot. "I have a quote from you a couple of days ago," says Ned Sherrin to a guest on Loose Ends. and it doesn't mean that he has encountered a thoughtprovoking phrase that has gone into the language during Friday, it simply means that Sherrin's large and industrious staff of researchers have found a line in an interview with the guest that may well hear reheating and re-serving, even though the guest invariably doesn't remember

saying his or her "quote". Period Period furniture or period houses could.

formerly, come from any period as long as it was recognisably of that period. Now, the word applies only to TV drama and always refers to Georgian times. The word "costume" is going

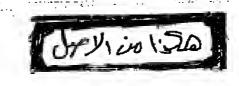
the same way.

Lottery Used to mean a risky gamble in a bad sense. like driving on hlack ice. Now it means a national entertainment that gives the Government an excuse for not supporting the arts. Guru Used to mean an Eastern wise man. Now li refers to someone who goes on TV and talks about

modern fashions, usually. with the addition of "Style". Celebrity Used to mean someone who was very famous. Now means a) someone who used to be famous, OR b) someone who has been on Call My Bluff at lunch-time, OR c) someone who has played a part in a TV soap opera OR d) someone who doesn't actually win awards himself but gets to open the envelope containing awards

More dodgy words soon. including input, synergy, dysfunctional, lad, etc.

for other people.



# Sweden's welfare meltdown has lessons for Labour

TOCKHOLM - On the surface all is glitter. The city is dressed for Christmas with fairy lights, the streets are full of evening shoppers, and the restaurants are packed with office parties singing (actually rather doleful) communal ditties. But the Swedes are worried.

They are worried about unemployment, for despite three years of deceni growth. headline unemployment is still nearly 8 per cent, and if you add in state-paid, make-work schemes to keep people off the register, it would really be about 15 per cent. They are worried about social exclusion the way the gap has videous the way the gap bas widened between professional dualincome families and blue-collar no-income families. They are worried about stagnation in the standard of living even of people in jobs, for despite economic growth, consumption is only inching upwards; less that 1 per cent last year, about 1.5 per cent this.

"People of my age," ex-plained a 35-year-old profes-sional, "cannot earn enough to think of buying a second home. So we all have to spend our holidays in our parents' ones," In the land that 25 years ago was indubitably the richest in the world, this is a bardship indeed. To cap all this, the Swedes

are worried that the govern-ment, despite the advice of an official commission that looked at the proposition, might join the single currency. This gives a certain solidarity with Britain, for Swedes vie with Brits as the most sceptic of the European family of nations. According to the polls there is a solid majority against joining the single currency, and perhaps more surprisingly since Sweden has only been a member of the EU for

less than two years, an apparent majority who wished she hadn't joined in the first place. But there is a crucial difference. In Sweden. opposition to Brussels comes mainly from the left, not the right. The fear is not the British worry that the EU will impose onerous regulations that will undermine the competitiveness of industry, but rather that EMU membership will require deregulation, particularly of the

Beyond this there is a wider fear that the closes integration into the EU will undermine. Even with enormous public spending - above the still-elaborate social security system, of 50 per cent of GDP - you cannot stop rising the still-elaborate social security system, of which most Swedes remain understandably proud. There is a deep fear that this system, the most extreme version of it in Western Europe, will have to be cut hack in a much more radical way than it has to date. True, there bave heen cutbacks in the funding of the welfare state, cuts in hospitals and day-care nurseries. True, opponents claim the pruning has protected the administrators while hitting the front-line staff, a familiar concern. But it is still remarkahly universal.

The problem is affording the welfare state in an ageing society. There are interesting implications here for a future UK Labour government. The practical question is this: can a



Hamish McRae

An ageing population, joblessness and low growth are forcing a left-wing government to make painful cuts

problem that confronts any government seeking to push through reforms. Some 8.8 mil-lion people live in the country. At any one point, 6.7 million of those are net recipients from the social welfare system. The the social welfare system. The other 2.1 million pay in. Self-evidently, they have to pay in proportionately more per head, and these payers, at a different stage of their life, may well become recipients. But in prac-

centre-left government, as in Sweden at the moment, re-

fashion a welfare system more

effectively than a government of the right, because it has more sympathy towards its aims and is therefore more trusted?

The answer seems to be

'maybe not". There is in

tical voting terms the arith-metic is always in favour of higher spending. Only when the government cannot borrow more, because the interest rates become prohibitive as happened in the early 1990s, is reform forced on it. As a result the cuts imposed by the previ-ous centre-right coalition have largely been maintained by the present government. Opposition to these cuts bas been mounting in recent weeks.

The government faces something of a populist rebellion. Helena Rajaniemi, a woman with no previous political pro-file—"an unmarried mother of four" said a friend who is one of the 2.1 million net payers - led a demon-stration of 4,000 in the Stockholm streets which

received enormous publicity. There is a conflict within the labour movement, which in general supports the government. It is hard for the outsider to judge, but if anything the opposition to reform seems to be gaining ground. The harsh reality is that the government bas

no option but to continue cutting its deficit; the discipline of the financial markets applies here as elsewhere. As the country continues to age as essewhere. As the country continues to age
fewer people of working age, more pensioners – the underlying tax/spend halance will
continue to move against the people. Explaining this, even to an electorate as well-educated
as Sweden's, is desperately difficult. I suspect a UK Labour government would find itself in exactly the same hind.

This leads to an uncomfortable conclusion. inequality. A lot of people in Sweden, and not just on the left, are deeply concerned about this, for Sweden's easy egalitarianism is something special and attractive. If you cannot spend money to fix problems, what do you do? Boost skills? Change behaviour? And if that is not enough, what then? How Sweden will continue to come to terms with this conundrum matters to us all.

One idea being mooted here is that they may start to rebuild the family - to take back from the state some of the functions of the family which it has assumed over the two previous generations. This is not a moral agenda, but simply a financial necessity.

# What's wrong with the BBC today

be Today programme is the flagship of the BBC, the bearer of its standards and so the slot that politicians fight to dominate. It speaks with the voice of the BBC, often setting the national news agenda and yesterday it featured the Director General

For that reason, if we wish to analyse the state of the BBC's soul, this is the place to shine the torch into its eye. What bet-ter time to probe the BBC than in the week it has secured almost all it expected in its new licence fee deal? As it happens, yesterday's Today programme presented an uncomfortable snapshot of some of the ideo-logical problems that now face the BBC.

As a former employee, I have many close friends in News and Current Affairs and I know how wearisome outside carping can be. I supported John Birt's reforms: he saved the BBC from hankruptcy, which would have delivered it into the hands of its many political foes. It is difficult to criticise the BBC even mildly with-out risking joining the ranks of

So what was wrong with yesterday's Today programme? First there was the calamitous Personality of the Year vote, which should have been aban-doned long ago. The Blair vote-rigging debacle exposed what everyone always knew, this farrago only tests which interest groups have the fastest fingers on their telephone buttons. The list of candidates is long on victims, short on sense. John Major? Anne Atkins (the airhead right-wing evangelical actress currently the Telegraph's agony aunt)? Apart from the Burnese opposition leader, the rest are all crime victims or their representatives, a sympathy vote.

You could say this was just unlucky foolishness. But solemnly allowing this charade to proceed speaks to a deeper main The BBC, as national broadcaster has to be neutral, it thinks. To be sure it must treat each political party fairly, but that does not mean it has to be neutrai on everything else that moves and breathes. It should not be neutral between abound arguments and serious ones. It is not "fairness" to give nonsense equal sittime in the name of balance. The dreadful "Thought for the Day" slot was at its worst yesterday, with Cristina Odone, Catholicism's answer to Anne Atkins, pontificating on the sins of a film she badn't seen - the remake of Lolita.



Staff clamp their hands over their mouths and claim intellectual castration. And it shows in the output

In its lead story, the Today orogramme failed to play a single clip of the ducal gaffes and the court correspondent was as pompous as a palace apologist: if the Duke is out of touch, the BBC is sometimes not far behind. While the rest of the world spluttered with indignation or laughter (a good 40 per cent of Britons are now of republican bent), the sonorous BBC said gravely: "Damage has been done ... Being the man he is, he just gave a straight answer ... He feels, by the way, the press are only interested

and all his good work is usually ourless habit of mind that will forgotten." Where was the not sustain its reporting for spontaneous ribaldry to he found everywhere else?

The lack of either spontaneity or comment stands out in the BBC's reporting, as journalism elsewhere these days offers lively interpretation. Bland statement of fact accompanied by two hrief opposing soundbites of contradictory positions is not enough. In the great cacophany of voices and opinions all around us, the BBC house style is so safe as to be virtually silent - a nonwhen be causes controversy, player. It is a deadening, col-

much longer. Asked for a view, BBC staff clamp their hands over their mouths and claim intellectual castration. And it Murdoch's predatory news shows in the output. Intelligent reporters are reduced to empty ciphers, wasting their talents. patronising the audience and

exuding caution. It would take bold leadership to dare to discard a straightjacket that has become as outdated as the radio announcers' dinner jackets. The BBC needs the fresh air of controversy

with a voice of its own. It is time to tell the politicians and the interest groups to go hang. Be brave. Otherwise the licence fee becomes an albatross, obliging the BBC to offend no one and say nothing.
In recent years the BBC has

been preoccupied with its own survival. Cannons on the left blasted Birt as a destroyer of old BBC traditions (often thinly disguised self-indulgences). More dangerous cannons on the right tried to dismantle the BBC altogether, sell off bits and keep only a tiny specialist sub-scription service. Over past years (but quieter of late) the Murdoch press has bayed loud-est for BBC blood, pursuing Murdoch real-prices

Murdoch's television interests. The Director General on yesterday's Today programme was in Cheshire Cat mode. He was pleased with the licence fee outcome, not all he wanted, but enough. He was also reasonably pleased with this week's revised DTI regulations governing Rupert Murdoch's digital settop box. Not all he wanted, but considerably better than was proposed two months ago before all the public fuss. Try as be might James Naughtic could not get John Birt to say the words "Rupert Murdoch", let alone express alarm at the tycoon's burgeoning media

But now the licence fee is won, the BBC is secure, who-ever wins the election. Now is the time for the BBC to forget the politicians and take up its mantle as defender of our cultural life. That means confronting the power of Murdoch, as the greatest cultural threat. For even if (which remains deeply in doubt) Oftel successfully regulates fair access to the digital future, Murdoch's overwhelming dom-inance in sport and movies, what he calls his "batteringram', will increasingly batter the BBC in the coming years. Only the BBC, free of com-mercial interest, can take on

this role convincingly. The political parties are paralysed by Murdoch's command of 40 per cent of the press. Who else is to take up cudgels against per price war, financed by a cross-media ownership that would have been banned in the United States? If the BBC marches into controversy on issues like these, so much the better. For what is the point of the BBC's new hard-carned political independence if it does not have the confidence to the self-confidence to breatbe use it bravely for the good of the nation?

# To catch a thief

Andrew Brown reflects on the strange case of the stolen headphones, and its hi-tech dénouement

ine months ago, a court case was conceived: one of the cleaners stole a pair of headphones off my desk at The Independent. He was captured in the act by a video cam-era. What followed was an extraordinary demonstration of the ways in which hi-tech offices are constantly subverted by human ingenuity. Even the beadphones were part of this subversion, since I use them to restore the privacy that an open-plan office other-

wise strips away.

The case finally came to court last week. By the time it reached the court. I had forgotten even in which month the incident bad taken place. I had only reported it because I wanted to be able to claim for the fairly expensive headphones on insurance; the last thing I expected was to be told that a culprit had heen caught. But the video never

sleeps.

The eameras that lurk in tougbened black-glass bubbles, like the compound eyes of insects, cost, I am told, £5,500 each and are capable of alarming feats of technological sophistication, such as tracking automatically the movements of tagged equipment through the office. When I complained to the office security people, they sped through a fortnight's worth of tape, watching for a flicker of movement at my desk.

Within a couple of days they told me that they had seen the moment of the theft: and that the police had arrested the culprit. Then I heard nothing, for months and months, until a young policeman took a statement from me. The cleaner had pleaded not guilty, despite the video evidence, and the further evidence of the electronic identity cards with which the doors in this office complex must be opened, which had placed him on the floor at the right moment.

The next shock was to learn that he had elected to go for jury trial. The beadphones be stole were worth about £50. Had be admitted their theft, be would probably have heen cautioned and released with no further action taken.

He had no previous form and was 25, approaching the age at which young men grow out of

> He had put his finger in the machine, and it had torn his whole arm off

crime. By denying his act, in the teeth of video evidence, be was setting himself up for a conviction and criminal record. A 25-yearold hlack man with a conviction for theft is not going to find honest work again easily.

He had put his finger in the machine, and it had torn his

whole arm off, I said to one of the policemen as we waited in the cafeteria of Southwark Crown Court. It is a huge, purpose-built brick fortress on the Thames, which seemed grotesquely dis-proportionate to the crime. But by then the theft of my £50 headphones had drawn in two police officers, two lawyers, and the head of security from the Mirror Group, which houses our offices. All of us were banging around,

waiting for a courtroom. We had been summoned to attend on a particular day, but no one could be certain when a courtroom would become available. There were 16 courtrooms to choose from, all fitted with video equipment, but all were occupied.

We waited and gossiped all morning with the legal costs ticking up like a taxi meter on Concorde. The lawyers went off to examine the video evidence, again. The cameras use a special high-definition format, with which the police had been able to see every detail of the crime. But then it turned out that this had not survived translation to the more common VHS format. A fresh tape had to be watched.

We broke off for lunch, taxi meters still ticking, but when I returned the whole thing had been solved. It turned out that only two of the courtrooms were fitted with high-definition equipment that would show more than an anonymous arm snaking down to my headphones and whisking them into an anonymous coat. Neither would be free that day. Without the extra fancy equipment there was nothing that would satisfy a jury.

So the cleaner had agreed to accept a caution. There would be no trial, and no conviction. though he would admit his guilt. All that effort by the police, the security men, the lawyers had been almost completely wasted. Nine months of hnreaucratic labour had brought forth a mouse -but at least the mouse was free, I thought, as I watched him scampering across the cafeteria where be too bad been waiting, with more patience than we had

# The chic shawl that's to die for

Woolly for you? The liama

family's coats are coveted

adeleine Trehearne sat on the floor of ber daughter's playroom surrounded by tens of thousands of pounds-worth of caprine luxury and said: "Of course some people come and ask: But it's just a pink scarf - why does it cost £500?' I bave to be very patient

This, unfortunately, was exactly the question I was about to ask. "Wby? Well, we don't rip anyone off and these are

pashmina," she says patiently. "You can't compare them to woollen scarfs. That's like comparing purest silk to a pair of cotton underpants at Marks & Spencer."

The style guru Lucia van der Post has decreed that the pashmina is "the most chic shawl around town," and if you have to ask, then be careful bow you do. It seems that something called the shatoosh used to be. It was to die for ask the antelope that supplied the fine and rare fibres for the cloth and bas since become

endangered. Well, at least someone had the the political divides of strife-torn Kashmir? sense to quit selling them before Sting made a record.

But there is still pashmina or even the odd vicuna to shrug into. Pashmina is made from the bair combed from the underbelly of the capra hircus (it means "hairy little goat") that lives in highest Kashmir. "This skill is unique to the Kashmiris and they will not show you bow they do the weaving," says Ms Trehearne, who sells direct from ber Hampstead house and whose other career is as an English literature academic.

To find the vicuna, you have to go halfway around the world to the Puna - the cold South American steppe. Down to only a few hundred in the mid-Sixties, the

small animal related to the alpaca and llama has made a healthy enough comeback to be back from the hrink and back on the shelf at Harrods. A small shawl is £849, a large one £1,949.

Why? Well this is no ordinary wild ruminant. The Incas sacrificed them on a fairly regular basis, but then they had some one million to cull from. We can blame Pizarro, who plundered herds for New World silk and began a trend that didn't end until the Sixties

trade ban. Now there are 160,000 vicuna but, if you count them in ounces of fleece, that is still not many. Each produces only eight ounces every two years (compared to six to eight pounds per year by the merino sheep). An overcoat requires a veritable berd (25 to 30 of them).

It is hard to tell which is more politically correct. The fleece from an animal given special permission to be shorn by the endangered species watchdog CITES, or

goats scampering across Who needs fur when you can play New Ago one-upmanship at this sort of level?

Back at Ms Trehearne's house, my knees are now molly-swaddled in pashmina. "Isn't it warm? It's like a thermal vest. You can hatch an egg in one, though my greengrocer said that is a very expensive way to hatch an egg."

She unfurls one covered in the tiny

stitches of a master embroiderer. "Of course, something like this is very expensive -we want £4,000 for it - hut then again it took one man three years to do." Suddenly, Marks & Spencer seems very far away indeed.

Ann Treneman

### Send a baby box to Bosnia this winter

Disinfectant, nappies, washing materials – not what you'd think of giving someone. But for an impoverished mother in Bosnia trying to keep her child safe from infection, the basic essentials inside one of our baby boxes would mean the world. Children's Aid Direct will deliver your box directly into the hands of mothers in Bosnia many of whom will be living in war-damaged housing in very basic conditions this winter. Please send a baby box to Bosnia this winter - and help a mother keep her baby safe.

### With love from a friend... Call 0990 600610 now to tell us how many boby boxes you would like to send. OR please complete and return this form.

Please send\_\_\_\_\_boby box(es) at £30 each on my behalf. i enclose a cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_\_(total amount) made payable to from my 🗆 Viso 🗇 Access 🗀 Switch OR please debit £

Last three digits of Switch cord ao. / / Switch issue no. / Expiry date / Signature

Name (caps)

If you would like to send a message to a dosmion

mother, please send it with your donotion and we will put it in your hoby box. Please send to: Children's Aid Direct, Dept 496, FREEPOST, Reading, R61 18R Registered chassly no. 803236.

Halifax

flotation

to cost

£400m

Leeds merger and partly for the

The society took a 9 per cent

share of net mortgage business in the UK in the nine months.

This compares with the 7 per cent share in the first half,

which was depressed by the so-ciety's decision to stay away from the highly competitive re-

But this is still well below its

20 per cent share of outstand-

ing mortgage business.

While the cost of the con-

version is still only an estimate, the Halifax has decided to take

a £69m charge during the nine-month period ending 31 Octo-

curred up to the special general meeting at the Sheffield Arena

m February. The date of the

meeting, at which members will vote on the conversion plan, has

Roughly half of the con-

version costs are due to com-

munication, according to a Halifax spokesman. This in-

cludes mail shots to the society's

members, producing and dis-tributing the 150-page transfer

document and a new advertis-

ing campaign.

The remainder of the costs

will include fees to Deutsche

Morgan Grenfell, the invest-

ment bank that is managing the

flotation. One analyst estimat-

ed that Deutsche would expect

to rake in around £45m in fees.

Lawyers could charge £30m

while stockbrokers will also

expect to receive fees of

Halifax's stock market value af-

& Leicester's.

yet to be announced.

This covers the costs to be in-

mortgage market.

**Banking Correspondent** 

The hill for merging Halifax Building Society with Leeds Permanent and next year's planned £11bn stock market flotation will total more than

City lawyers, bankers and hrokers will share humper fees

with Halifax estimating the bill

for flotation and the accompa-

nying conversion to being a bank at £153m.

hill is restructuring costs asso-ciated with the merger with

Leeds. The costs break down as

£208.9m for reorganising, re-

structuring and integrating the

two business, and £51.5m for the

loss on the disposal of fixed

assets, mainly property.

Halifax has already

announced 1,200 joh losses as

a result of merging the two head offices. It is also closing down

branches as there was consid-

erable overlap between the two

The society will not reveal the

precise details of the share

hand-outs to its 9 million mem-

bers until early next month when its weighty transfer doc-ument about the flotation will

be sent out. The wording is be-

ing finalised with the Building

Societies Commission, the in-

The document will confirm

that the share bonus will take

the form of a flat distribution

and an additional variable

allocation of shares. The num-

ber of shares allocated will be

calculated based on the balance

in each member's account in

November 1994 - when the

flotation was first announced -

and on the day of the special

general meeting next February.

nounced results for the first nine

months of this year, showing an

underlying 5.9 per cent rise in

controversial set-top box technology would be curbed

Halifax also yesterday an-

dustry regulator,

societies on the high street.

The remaining £260m of the

eyo be: filtr tro int glar eq. ter gnc chc

other broadcasters. However it emerged that Mr Cruickshank's powers to curb any anti-competitive behaviour by BSkyB could be wate ed down it British Telecom wins a legal challenge against similar powers over its telephune

2807.75

-13.00

been in the High Court this turers, including Sony and Pace week contesting the legality of new license conditions which give the regulator the ability to han any moves by phone operators which he fears could be

designed to thwart competi-

tion. Judgement in the action is due this afternoon. Though BT has accepted the new powers, which take effect from 31 December, the company has elaimed it was obliged tu challenge their legality in urder tu protect shareholders'

Mr Cruickshank is planning to introduce the same condition to regulate BSkyB and though he refused to speculate on what would happen if he lost the BT grammes and the offerings of case, he admitted the fair trading proposals were "an imporpart" uf vesterday's digital

TV guidelines. BSkyB is working tu start dig-ital satellite services, offering up to 200 television channels, by late 1997. Contracts are likely tu be awarded in the next few

approximately £15m. dealt a serious and unexpected The only other converting setback yesterday when a US building society to admit the cost is Alliance & Lekester which put its hill at £58m, £10m of which is due to postage costs.

court ordered the company to pay up to \$554m (£331m) in damages in a dispute over its American car exhaust business. The scale of the award ter flotation is estimated to be stunned the company and analysts and could wipe out its cash 3.7 times greater than Alliance reserves and hit this year's final

Micro Technology.

The move gives BSkyB a lu-crative headstart over the cable

industry, which has pledged to

provide its own digital delivery

system and over the digital ter-restrial services planned by the BBC and ITV using the con-

The boxes could be sold for

£200 but will cost some £400 to

make, with the difference sub-

sidised by a Sky-organised con-

The vision spelt out by Mr Cruickshank involved the prob-

ability of just "one or two" sys-

tems available to bring

programmes into homes, but

with separation of the technical

delivery mechanism from pro-

ventional TV ariel network.

Chris Godsmark

Business Correspondent

GKN, one of the UK's biggest

car components groups, was

sharply on the news and despite some recovery in later trading closed down 35.5p at £10.09p. The class action was brought. by small garage owners who op-erated franchises for Meineke Discount Muffler Shops, GKN's retail car exhaust chain

and a tiny part of the group's world-wide operations. The jury in the district court in Charlotte, North Carolina, agreed that advertising commission pay-ments charged to the franchise operators by Meineke's in-

payments after having pledged that the in-house advertising agency would not make a profit or charge commission. Franchising is big business in the US but has attracted con-

They claimed GKN had de-

frauded them by covering up the

troversy in recent years over heavy-handed tactics by some multinational companies. The jury had used its discretion to award additional damages on top of the original claim for \$31m to cover the commission

Though the award against GKN is for \$398m; it could be as high as \$554m. A spokesman for the com-

announcement and said GKN would launch an appeal against the final judgment, expected in January. "All the advice we had been getting was that we had a very strong case and that advice still stands as far as we're concerned. We're confident we'll win through on appeal, which

deficit in France, commenting

that meeting the treaty's target

"depends not only on the res-

olute implementation of fiscal

consolidation plans, but also on

the likely course of interest

tries succeed in moving to-

wards the Maastricht limits will

determine how sluggish the EU

economies are next year. The

report foresees the recovery as

being "relatively modest" be-cause of efforts to close the gap

between government spending

and revenues. It predicts that

unemployment rates on the

Continent will scarcely budge from their current high levels.

main European economies to

grow faster next year than this,

admitting that their perfor-

mance in 1996 has been slug-

gish. Investment and exports are likely to recover during the

next 12 months. Low interest

rates and a tight fiscal policy

Even so it expects both the

The speed with which coun-

rates".

However, the group is likely to have to lodge some or all of the cash in a bond with the court before the appeal, which could take up to a year to come to court. An extraordinary charge is likely to be made on GKN's accounts for 1996, though the

rather than a small town jury."

LCR said Eurostar was on the "curve to profitability" but it was unlikely to be in profit before the

flotation. Passenger numbers this year will top 6 million com-

pared with 3.4 million last year but Eurostar is reckoned to

need about 10 million passengers

to break even. Mr Mills said the fund-raising

exercise would be a challenging

one in the light of the experience

of the Channel Tunnel which cost

Eurotunnel £10bn to build and

opened more than a year late.

funds of that kind anywhere and

at any time and there will be a

view that this is in some way

linked to Eurotunnel."

"It would be difficult to raise

the spring, would not be cut. GKN had cash reserves of £483m on its books in its halfyearly accounts, which could be substantially reduced if the full

### Dunn & Co calls in the receivers

Nigel Cope

The Christmas shopping season turned sour for one of Britain's best-known menswear retailers yesterday when Dunn & Co collapsed into receivership.

Known for its slightly oldfashioned image, sturdy suits, biazers and flannels, Dunn & Co's reliance on the formal

wear market proved its un-doing. Receivers KPMG hlamed the collapse on poor trading and high debts. The company was founded in 1886 as a hat seller and developed a string of high street stores. But since it was acquired by new owners in 1994 it has been losing more than £1m a year on sales of £25m. It has debts of £6.4m of which £4m is owed to unsecured creditors. Venture capitalists CinVen own

86 per cent of the company.

Dunn & Co has 130 shops and 429 staff. Its head office in Swansea employs a further 75 workers. The receivers hope to sell the group as a going con-cern and will be working to keep the shops trading over Christ-mas, which is its busiest time of the year. There are no immediate plans for shop closures or redundancies. KPMG's Paul Jeffries said: "It's a very well known name and the customer loyalty is tremendous. We expect there to be quite a bit of

He added that the group's problems arose through a decline in the formal wear market.

Dunn & Co was formed by George Arthur Dunn, a Quaker, 110 years ago. He had started his career selling hats on the streets on Birmingham. Forty years later he had 200 hat shows and as many franchises in shops and as many franchises in other stores.

Though the stores have attracted a dusty reputation, Mr Dunn was a modern thinker. He was the first man in Britain to own a combine harvester. Before he died in 1939 he also opened a vegetarian hotel.

Prior to his death he established a trust to own and run the company for the benefit of the employees. The group has experienced problems before and was put up for sale in 1991. Then nearly 40 shops were sold to Hodges, a private Welsh group which kept the Dunn &

Co name going.
Since its sale to CinVen in 1994 it has been run by Anthony Phillips and Jim Bellingham.



business & cit

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Eyeing the future: Sir Derek Hornby (left) chairman of London & Continental Railways, and the Transport Minister John Watts at Waterloo International yesterday after the granting of royal assent for the Bill to construct the high-speed Channel Tunnel Rail Link

Photograph: Peter MacDiarmid Photograph: Peter MacDiarmid

Preparations for the £1bn flotation of the Eurostar train operator, London and Continental Railways, are to begin early next year following its quicker-thanexpected recovery from the Channel Tunnel fire last month.

Passenger numbers are back to 65 per cent of their level before the fire and Eurostar ex-pects traffic levels to be fully restored by January. Some 65,000 passengers will travel between London, Paris and Brussels on the service this week and Eurostar expects traffic levels to rise to 100,000 in Christmas week with the help of special promotions such as a £69 same-

# Eurostar's £1bn flotation on track as traffic returns

day return fare. Before the fire on board a Eurotunnel freight shuttle, Eurostar was handling 100,000 passengers a week.

The proceeds from the flotation will be used to fund the construction of the £2.8bn Channel Tunnel high-speed rail link into London's St Pancras station. LCR, whose shareholders in-clude the Virgin Group, SBC Warburg, National Express and

Bechtel, was selected for the project earlier this year. A further £1bn-£1.5bn of bank debt will need to be raised while the Government is committed to

providing £1.4bn of taxpayers' funds. However, none of the public subsidies will be available until the 68-mile link is two-thirds

Paris will be reached in 2 hours The flotation is expected to take place in early 1998 in conjunction with the raising of debt

finance from an international Construction will begin in mid-1998 and the line is schedsyndicate of banks.

US court tells GKN to pay out £331m the damages are then tripled.

Adam Mills, chief executive of

uled to open in 2003. It will cut

35 minutes off journey times, meaning that Brussels will be just

a two-hour train ride away and

pany said he was shocked by the

# final dividend, to be paid out in

### MORTGAGE CUSTOMERS

### **Interest Rate Change**

The rates of interest for new and existing mortgage customers (in appropriate cases the basic rate) will increase by 0.25% to 6.99% with effect from 20th December 1996. The new rates cootinue to reflect the Society's commitment to mutuality and the benefits this brings to our customers.

Fixed rate mortgages are not affected during the contractual fixed rate period.

In cases where mortgage interest rate changes are subject to notice, the increase will take place after the appropriate notice period which will commence on 20th December 1996

There will be oo change to the interest rates on existing Secured Personal Loans regulated by the Consumer Credit.

For customers participating in the Society's annual review. procedure, this interest rate increase will be taken into account when calculating new monthly payments from March 1997 or, in appropriate cases, the anniversary of the -



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# BSkyB warned to play | OECD predicts deadline fair on digital television for euro will not be met

None of the biggest EU economics is likely to qualify for membership of the single cur-rency in time for the 1 January 1999 start date, according to an authoritative new report.

nomie Co-operation and Development predicts, in its end-year economic outlook, that none of the key members of the euro will have a government budget deficit below the 3 per eent limit set out in the Maastricht Treaty by 1997, the decisive year. It praises the progress most continental European countries have made in reducing government budget shortfalls, but reckons only a few smaller members are likely to make it below the ceiling.

gramme making.
The guidelines oblige companies to provide separate ac-cuunts for the delivery businesses and to provide in-formation about prices. If they fail to comply, Oftel, the watch-dox, can make an enforcement dog, can make an enforcement order or take operators to court.

T DATES

The Organisation for Eco-

thanks to these efforts to cut government borrowing, the organisation says the outlook for the industrial economies is one of balanced growth and low in-

In particular, it expects the US to grow by almost as much next year as in 1996 with barely any increase in inflation and only a small rise in interest rates. The report lends support to what financial markets have dubbed the "Goldilocks scenario", an economy that is nei-

ther too hot nor too cold. Japan is the one significant case where the OECD expects the pace of growth to slow. Canada is likely to he the fastest-growing of the hig in-dustrial economies in 1997-98, followed by the UK. In the case of Germany, yes-

terday's report says: "On the assumption of a sufficiently supportive monetary stance, the Maastricht fiscal deficit criteria will be met if all the gov-Although recovery in the EU ernment's proposed measures economies will be modest are implemented." But the foreernment's proposed measures cast puts the deficit at 3.4 per cent of GDP in 1997, just out-It forecasts a 3.2 per cent

should permit faster growth without the threat of inflation. CURRENCIES

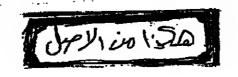
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# Up and up go the costs of Halifax conversion

'Most mortals are going to find the amount being spent on merging with the Leeds Permanent and then floating on the stock market hard to understand or justify. At £413m, it is equal to the cost of several spanking

new hospitals'

ing on the stock market hard to understand or justify. At £413m, once everything is totted up, it is equal to the cost of several spank-ing new hospitals. Alternatively, it could be made to pay for about half the planned uplift in Government spending on education next year, or to cut the deficit to a level which might qualify Britain for the single European currency. It dwarfs even the costs of preparing the water companies for privatisation and then floating them on the stock market.

Looked at another way, it is about 10 per cent of what the Halifax and Leeds combined pay their depositors each year in interest. Eveo taking into account the fact the bulk of the cost is being incurred on the merger, expenses which presumably can be quite swiftly recouped out of subsequent cost savings, we are still talking about quite spectacular numbers.

Costs associated with the flotation alone are expected to come out at £153m. That may not look unduly high set against the company's expected £11bn stock market worth, or the usual percentages charged by the City, but given that this float does not need to marketed or underwritten in any way, the figures still look out of all propor-tion. The reason, Halifax claims, is the enormous costs associated with communicating with its 9 million members. The sheer bulk of the oecessary documentation is way

cise justifies the expenses. Halifax, it will be recalled, was a late convert to the idea of conversion. The full story of how it came to change its mind has yet to be told. For some years, Jon Foulds, the chairman, held out against it, giving long and highly articulate dissertations on why it wasn't for the Halifax. Then the scales fell from his eyes, the dyke was breached and those that still cling to mutuality are now the odd ones out. But the assertion that Halifax will be better for its members as a joint stock company has yet

to be proved. Nationwide argues that what the others are going to have to pay out in dividends can in their case be used to offer their members keener interest rates. Oo the face of it, this is not an easy thing to argue against. The costs of the Halifax-Leeds merger and its subsequent flotation would be worth approximately half a percentage point to its depositors, the sort of advantage competitors would kill for. But with all those free shares

around, who's going to dispute the costs?

Metal Exchange gets a fair bill of health

The London Metal Exchange's way of life and its trading methods are safe, but its

ing conflicts of interest and in urgent need of an overhaul.

SIB has no evidence of abuse. But to outsiders, the lack of a clear division of responsibility between the board and the executive is deeply worrying.

That explains why the Securities and Futures Authority, which regulates some LME members, has been wary of handing over too much information to the metal market. With the right reforms, that roadblock to a closer co-operation, which is essential to avoiding future scandals, should be removable. The LME had better get a

The LME has nevertheless won a victory of a kind. There is no more talk of a complete overhaul of the very special trading methods. After all, the fundamental cause of the Sumitomo scandal must be sought in Japan. The giant company, hardly in the wid-ows and orphans class, failed to police its own enormous dealings in copper.

Furthermore, it reacted somnoleotly to warnings from the LME and SIB that some-thing suspicious was going on. And the main companies with which it did business in London were not even LME members, but were regulated by the SFA.

The \$2.6bn of losses are therefore hard

and its trading methods are safe, but its to pin on the peculiarities of LME trading. Culture is not so secure. Yesterday's report The metal market has no segregation of

- investor protection features found in all other London markets.

But the Securities and Investments Board has accepted the view of professionals connected with the LME that it should be allowed to continue in its own way.

The reason for this special treatment is that the bulk of LME users either produce or consume the products being traded, and are grown up enough to know what they are

More important, SIB says there is no systemic risk that the whole trading system would collapse if there were a default resulting from lack of segregation of client accounts. This is not a clean bill of health, but it could have been much worse.

### Long haul ahead for high-speed rail link

Just as investors are recovering their nerve J after the fire in the Channel Tunnel, another bunch of railway enthusiasts are preparing to bring their train set to market. Early next year London and Continental Railways, the Eurostar operator, will begin softening up City institutions and banks for a capital-raising exercise to fund the £2.8bn high-speed rail link. Don't be fooled, however, by that £2.8bn

Most mortals are going to find the above anything seen before, and as a contamount being spent by Halifax on merging with the Leeds Permanent and then float.

The obvious question is whether the exertion is whether the exertion of the regulatory structure of the LME found in our of the ark, full of potentially damaging are no daily cash payments to cover margins in our of the ark, full of potentially damaging are no daily cash payments to cover margins in our of the ark, full of potentially damaging are no daily cash payments to cover margins in our of the ark, full of potentially damaging are no daily cash payments to cover margins. tunnel provided a wondrous insight into just how crippling compound interest can be.
When the high-speed line is up and running, in theory by 2003, it will be remarkable if there is any change from £4bn (at 1995). prices). That seems a fancy sum for slicing 35 minutes off the journey time to Paris and Brussels.

> There are some important differences, however, between LCR and Eurotunnel. For one thing, LCR already has £1,4bn of pub-lic funding in its back pocket after the Government's helated recognition that it would never get this project out of the sidings unless it dipped into taxpayers' pockets.
>
> For another, LCR also has a sizeable

> income stream from Enrostar operations even though the chances of it actually turning a profit before floration at the beginning

> of 1998 must be remote.
>
> And for a third thing, it has the marketing chutzpah of Richard Branson's Virgin and the financial muscle of SBC Warburg behind it.

> That said, the high-speed link will forever be linked - both physically and in the mind's eye of investors - with the Channel Tunnel, which came in a year late and twice the original budget and could, quite conceivably, never pay its original shareholders a dividend.

It will take all Branson's pizzazz and all SBC's considerable financial ingenuity to pull this one off.

# Interest rate rise leads to cut in mortgage lending

**Economics Editor** 

The amount of new mortgage and consumer borrowing fell slightly last month, following the rise in base rates at the end of October. But November brought a surge in total bank lending for the second month

The Building Societies Association said the housing recovery was still on track despite the slight setback, with mortgage advances well above the previous year's level. Adrian Coles, director general, said: The slight fall in lending is not a sign of faltering recovery but, rather that it is more stable and likely to he sustainable in the

for the housing market was supported by Abbey National, one of the higgest mortgage

lenders. Predicting a 7 per cent rise in bouse prices in 1997, retail managing director Andrew Pople said: "We do not anticipate - and would not welcome

- a return to the boom-hust cycle of the late 1980s."

He added: "We do not expect interest rates to rise significantly in the foreseeable future, which in turn will underpin consumer confidence."

Economists suggested that the slight setback to borrowing reflected the withdrawal of cheap fixed-rate mortgage deals after the 30 October increase in base rates. "There is little sign of a strengthening trend in personal sector borrowing," said John O'Sullivan, an economist at NatWest Markets.

New lending by the building societies fell from £1.5bn in October to £1.3bn in November, still 73 per cent higher than 'a year eather. Separate figures from the main high-street mortgage lending from £623m to £610m.

However, the British Bankers' Association said their total lending was well above October's figure. It rose to £4.6bn from £2.8bn, inflated by an £800m loan by one bank to a subsidiary. Even adjusting for this, the other rise in base rates.

BBA said there was demand for loans from across all economic sectors. It was particularly strong from service industries, while a jump in borrowing by leasing companies pointed to higher investment spending in

> The buoyant loans picture made for a higher-than-expected jump in total lending and in M4, the broad measure of the money supply. New loans in the economy amounted to £7bn. about the same as the previous month and 10 per cent higher than last November.

The annual growth in M4 increased from 10.5 per cent to 10.8 per cent, highest rate for nearly six years.

The steady acceleration in broad money growth during Bank of England, even though the introduction of the gilts repo market has exaggerated the pace. Many in the City thought that, after strong retail sales and a hig drop in unemployment, the lending figures would lead the Bank to press harder for an-



isda's chairman Archie Norman (right) with Allan Leighton, chief executive, in Harrogate yesterday Photograph: Guzellan

### Norman rejects loyalty card as Asda surges

Tom Stevenson City Editor

Archie Norman, Asda's chairman, remained resolutely opposed to the idea of introducing a loyalty card at the supermarket chain yesterday, as he announced strong profits and sales growth in the half-year to

"The old maxims are often the best. Keeping it simple has been the key to our success," he said, as he reported another humper like-for-like sales performance from the Leeds-based multiple grocer. Sales from existing stores grew by 10.2 per cent in the six-month period, which compared with growth of only 7 per cent from Tesco, 5.1 per cent from Safeway and 2.3 per cent from Sainsbury.

Allan Leighton, who succeeded Mr Norman as chief executive earlier this year, added: Our continued ontperformance of the industry is evi-

dence of progress towards our Breakout goal of hecoming Britain's best value fresh food and clothing superstore," Breakout is a three-year improvement programme launched by Asda

Profits in the half-year before a £73m exceptional profit from the sale of the group's stake in Allied Carpets increased 15.8 per cent to £160.1m. Earnings per share increased by a similar margin to 4.06p and the dividend rose 12.5 per cent to 0.81p. Asda's shares, which have risen from a low of 23p in 1992, closed 1.75p higher at 125.5p.

Since Mr Norman joined Asda in 1992 to reverse its fading fortunes, the group's return on sales has more than doubled despite a gradual decline in the return on assets enjoyed by the industry as a whole. Yesterday he said Asda had overtaken the average of its three big rivals on that measure for the first time.

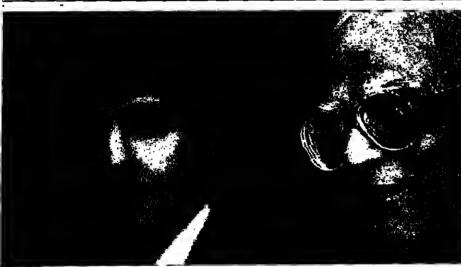
Announcing a continuation of Asda's creed, "Simplicity is di-vinity", Mr Norman said; "Our competitors are looking for other things to do. We have nothing against loyalty cards, but we believe our success is more to do with being radical and doing things with pace."

With all the big grocery chains copying each others ini-tiatives, he added, the trick was to stay ahead of the game and to focus on the core business rather than moving into peripheral areas such as financial services.

Asda's strongest performers in the period were fresh food and clothing. Meat sales rose 19 per cent, produce 14 per cent and bakery sales were 13 per cent higher.

The George clothing brand saw a 35 per cent increase in sales with children's wear and ladies' outerwear especially

Investment column, page 22



On his mettle: Raj Bagri (right) of the LME

# SIB warns on conflict of interest at LME

Peter Rodgers Financial Editor

The Securities and Investments Board said yesterday that serious potential conflicts of interest at the top of the London Metal Exchange should be removed as soon as possible.

The City's senior regulator was proposing a seven-point to have ensured that they do not programme of improvements at misuse information gained for the LME, the result of a six-regulatory purposes." month investigation into regulatioo of the metals market.

the summer after Yasuo Hamanaka, n copper trader at Sumitomo, ran up losses of \$2.6bo can be seen to be preserved". for his employer, and SIB is to monitor progress at the LME over the next 12 months...

The SIB report said there had heen occasions when conflicts of interest ruled out so many board members of the LME from an active interest that a special committee of the chief executive, including a co-opted outsider, had to be set up to deal with market developments.

SIB made no allegation that conflicts of interest had led to abuse of inside information ob-

tained while regulating the metal markets. But it made clear its concerns about the seriousness of the risks arising from the market's organisation.

The report said: "In order to secure the confidence of users of the LME, it is also essential that the board as a whole and its individual members are seen

There should be a clear separation between regulatory The inquiry was launched in tasks and the commercial activities of the exchange "so that confidentiality of information

The LME board should formally delegate responsibility for monitoring trading to the ex-ecutive and it should "continue to arrange its affairs so that it does not have access to market-sensitive information and should make clear publicly that this is the case".

One of SIB's recommendations is that the LME creates a post of head of market regulation and enforcement to give a "higher profile and a sharper

ulation and enforcement. Raj Bagri chairman of the LME insisted that there had never been any problem in practice hot agreed that the SIB recommendation would prompt changes in LME organisation and an increase in the number of independent directors, which he expects to rise from one to at least three. The staff of 44 will rise by about a fifth.

Mr Bagri said: "It is not just a question of doing the right thing but of being seen to be doing the right thing."
The report was attacked by

David Threlkeld, a copper trader, who warned the LME about Mr Hamanaka's activities in 1991. "You need a new executive entity on the LME with teeth and powers to put a stop to corruption and fraud." The SIB report came down

distinctive way the LME operates, which arises from its deep involvement with producers and end users of metal. But it urged more independent directors and an exchange of information with the SFA.

against radical changes in the

Gallaher, the UK tobacco subsidiary of American Brands, is to sbut its cigarette factory in Manchester with the loss of almost 1,000 jobs. Production is being transferred to its factory at Lisnafillan, Northern Ireland where around 300 new jobs. will be created. Local council leaders in

**1,000 jobs** 

lost in

Gallaher

closure

Manchester and unions immediately condemned the decision. "This news has come as a complete bombshell to everyone and we are appalled by the timing of this decision just days before Christmas," the local council leader Roy Oldham said last night.

"I am left wondering whether this is a crude bribe by the Government to buy the Ulster Uoionists' vote in its desperate attempts to cling on to power. I am struck by the coincidence that the oews of this closure comes at the same time as the Government has given £10m to Northern Ireland to help make this switch."

The closure is part of a

streamlining drive by Gallaher, which closed its Belfast plant in 1988 and its Port Talbot cigar factory in Wales in 1994.

The firm has also reduced its distribution plants from eight to single centre in Crewe. Peter Wilson, chairman of

Gallaher, said: "By now reduc-ing from our two UK cigarette factories to one and investing in the latest generation of ultrahigh speed cigarette man-ufacturing machinery, we will achieve significantly lower overhead costs and make an important improvement in pro-

duction efficiency." The Manchester factory which manufactured Benson and Hedges and Silk Cut for the UK market, will take three to four years to close completely. American Brands is taking a

fourth-quarter pre-tax charge of

approximately \$80m to cover

the closure, which will mostly be

used to cover redundancy

packages. The firm said the factory in Ulster would have a capacity to make up to 50 billion ciga-Radical regulation, page 24 | rettes a year.



# Airtours buys up Italian cruise operator for £181m

The rise and rise of Airtours continued vesterday after the tour operator, Britain's second largest after Thomson, announced a further move into the booming cruise market with the acquisition of Europe's largest cruise company, Italy's Costa Crociere. Airtours' shares jumped 50p to 797.5p on the news, at which level they have more than doubled since the

beginning of the year.

The £181m deal, agreed by Costa's controlling shareholders, was struck in joint partnersbip with Airtours' largest sharebolder, Carnival Corporation, the largest US cruise operator. Both companies plan to contribute balf the consideration from their

own resources. It is the first time Carnival and Airtours have acted in concert like this since Carnival took a 29.5 per cent stake in the

land, founder and chairman of Airtours, is already on the board of Carnival.

Airtours and Carnival said yesterday they had entered into an agreement with a syndicate of sharebolders owning just over 50 per cent of Costa's Milau-traded sbares. That syndicate's major shareholder is the Costa family itself, while other members include hotel and leisure group Accor, the Agnelli family which controls Fiat, and supermarket group

Costa, which is based in Genoa, operates 10 ships, primarily in the Mediterranean, where it controls 30 per cent of the cruise market. It is strong in Italy, where it sells 70 per cent of all cruises on the Mediterranean, and in France, where its share is 40 per cent.

In the year to December 1995, it is estimated that about took a 29.5 per cent stake in the British holiday company and the deal is certain to intensify em Europe out of a world-wide seas acquisitions to push its profits from outside Britain to 50 per cent of the group total. 900,000 cruises were taken in

speculation that the two will total of 5.4 million. The cruise eventually merge. David Cross-market in Europe is expected to market in Europe is expected to grow to 1.2 million cruise

passengers by the year 2000. Last year, Costa made profits before tax and extraordinary items of £18.2m from sales of £380m. The company will be run as a stand alone business, headquartered in Genoa, but Airtours expects to supply its cruise ships through its own tour operation and to stock its brochures in its Going Places travel agencies.

The Costa deal follows hot on the beels of bumper full-year figures from Airtours last week for the 12 months to Sep-tember. Profits rose 46 per cent to £86.8m after a 30 per cent rise compared with profits earlier this week from rival First Choice of £10m from sales of

Airtours indicated at the time of its results that it was planning to spend up to £250m on over-

# NSM shares sink to 8p

The news served to high-light the growing difficulties facing Britain's small knot of mining companies. Last week almost £200m was wiped off the stock market value of RJB Mining. Britain's higgest coal

own broker warned about the impact of cheap overseas imports of coal in the wake of sterling's recent strength. Earlier this year administra-

are expected to be finalised, NSM again warned that the

sale of its US coal operations, which is being handled by US stockbrokers Paine Webber,

John Jermine, the chairman, said several "unforeseen oper-ational difficulties and delays" bad significantly affected working capital requirements. "Con-

have yet to be determined." Mr Jermine said trading in the US was "extremely difficult" and blamed two "once in a hundred years" storms in successive years, previously unknown geological problems in the deep mines and low selling prices. If the talks are successful,

and long-term funding which

# Asda trumps the loyalty card pack

Asda: at a glance

ing virtue out of necessity. But cynicism about its motives aside, Asda is probably right to hold back from the fray. The jury is still out on whether the costs of loyalty cards are outweighed by the benefit of higher sales, but the evidence to be in the sector, Asda is your best way in, but in a cut-throat mature market and with its driving force destined for the Opposition benches, there is better value elsewhere.

Hard Rock lets

reacted badly to two worrying devel-

Rank down

Asda has always played a different marketing game from its more upmarket peers, and it remains the only non-discount grocery chain to sell itself unashamedly on price, but it is currently making more than usual of its Leeds origins. Its price promise now finds itself literally inscribed in Yorkshire stone outside its superstores - true

Asda's refusal to get involved in the loyalty card war smacks a little of mak-

northern grit.

With the company for the time being still run by the prospective from leisure giant Rank as nothing parliamentary candidate for true blue Tunbridge Wells, that may ring somewhat hollow, but the underlying group fell 25.5p to 416.5p as investors message that what consumers want from a supermarket is good value, good quality and service has a ring of common sense. The riny discounts offered by loyalty cards have always been a con that underestimated the

intelligence of the average shopper.

Asda's continuing ability to outstrip its peers on crucial measures such as return on capital employed and likefor-like sales growth is surprising but pleasantly so. Like-for-like turnover growth of 10.2 per cent in the six months to November remains comfortably ahead of Tesco's 7 per cent and leaves Sainsbury's 2.3 per cent stand-ing. For the first time, Asda's return on capital has risen above the average of its three largest rivals and while its trend is healthily upwards the others are getting a progressively worse return from the assets they employ.

Other battles Asda appears to be winning are for the bearts and minds of clothes shoppers and fresh food buyers, the latter not traditionally its strongest suit. Having taken full control of the George clothing brand, real progress is being made towards the target of becoming the number two family clothes brand behind M&S. Fresh food sales are growing like Topsy, with meat, especially, taking off.

The rather belated push to achieve 40 per cent of sales from own-hrand products also appears to be going according to plan with successful cereal launches among 2,000 new lines taking penetratioo up to 35 per cent. A similar push is planned for next year. In all sorts of ways Asda continues

to force the pace in the supermarket arena but it remains firmly in the pack as far as stock market rating goes, on a prospective p/e ratio of 13 on the basis

don turnover rose a sub-inflationary 2 per cent while sales fell in New York. Not surprisingly, Hard Rock has re-cently expanded its national and local sales forces in the US to beef up the marketing effort.

The other concern is the slipping timetable for the planned £1bn sale of Rank's remaining 20 per cent stake in copier company Rank Xerox. Originally due to take place in the first quarter of 1997, the talk now is of a sale The stock market was right to interpret yesterday's 11-month "trading update" some time before the end of 1998. The sale is seen as a way for Rank to return cash to investors, either in the form of a share buy-back or special dividend, but they should not hold their breath.

Disposals of non-core assets form a key part of the strategic review recently completed by new chief executive Andrew Teare, formerly of English The higgest surprise came at the China Clays.

Hard Rock themed restaurant chain. While just about any old branded con-Yesterday saw the Shearings holiday coach business finally sold to its mancept serving up half-decent beer and grub seems to be coming it, Hard Rock has spectacularly missed out on the bonanza. True, a BSE beef scare closed agement for £83m. All told, Rank has raised more than £200m during the sec-ond half, though borrowings still remain around £1bn after Rank splashed out the Paris branch for 15 days in the autumn, but nevertheless like-for-like £123m in October for the Tom Cobsales in the 32 Hard Rock cafes fell 4 leigh chain of themed pubs. That deal

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Pear and £378m next time. If you want to be in the sector, Asda is your best and turnover rose a sub-inflationary 2 don turnover rose a sub-inflationary 2 of next type and the control of the economic cycle.

Broker Kleinwort Benson sticks with its bottom-of-the-range forecast don turnover rose a sub-inflationary 2 of next type are type and profits of the economic cycle.

of pre-tax, pre-exceptional profits of £294m this year, rising to £345m in 1997. That implies a price/earnings ratio of 17 falling to 15. Unexciting.

Fairey issued its hurried offer document for rival engineer Burnfield yesterday and with it a slew of facts and figures showing what an appalling investment Burnfield has been over the past five years. No one would argue with that both capital value and dividend income

both capital value and dividend income have fallen 40 per cent over that period. Burnfield rightly countered that Fairey's choice of period was highly selective, as they always are in bostile bid situations, and amempted to put forward its own three-year period, starting at the company's recent low point when it parted company with its previous chief executive. As always, a hostile bid has drowned hapless investors in a

torrent of innuendo and half-truth. The real story is, not surprisingly, a combination of the two sides' arguments, but Fairey wins on points. Burnfield has made some pretty awful acquisitions along the way, resulting in a hefty £12m exceptional charge that will send it £8m into the red this year. It has a poor history of disappointing sharebolders with profits warnings and has seen its earnings per share go nowhere in the past five years. After a collapse in its dividend in 1993, the payout has edged upwards but is only a little more than half the 1992 level.

Against that backdrop it is now attempting to sell a £20m seven-for-10 rights issue to shareholders to fund an acquisition into a new area, vibration control equipment. The City reaction to the deal - 10 per cent off the sbare

price to 100p - tells the story.

Normally the best thing to do in a bid like this is to wait for the arguments to unfold. In this case, that is not possible because Fairey says it will only go ahead with the one-for-four share hid if shareholders vote down the proposed acquisition and rights issue on 30 December. So, shareholders have to make a snap decision. Faced with stumping up £630 for every £1,000 of shares they own, the temptation to snatch a decent premium at yesterday's close of 141.5p is enormous. Sell in the market.

NSM saw its already lowly share price fall by a third yesterday after the beavily indehted mining group revealed a huge half-year loss and admitted the future of its deep coal mine in south Wales rested on the successful outcome of crisis talks with bankers. NSM's shares, as high as 80p a year ago, closed 4p

tors were called in at Coal Investments, the mining venture headed by Malcolm Edwards, a former British Coal director. In the year to September NSM racked up losses of £71.9m, all but £500,000 of which relate to a provision on the sale of husinesses which have either been completed or

sequently, the company has been in detailed discussions with its bankers regarding its immediate

NSM's future will largely de-pend on the pit in south Wales.

# Cook defends 'implausible' forecast

**Patrick Tooher** 

The war of words between steel castings group William Cook new level of intensity yesterday as both sides traded accusation which is the value of William and counter-accusatioo.

The fur started to fly after Triplex Lloyd dismissed William Cook's latest profit forecast as "implausible". William Cook responded by accusing Triplex £10.7m in the year to March Lloyd of making "a number of 1997 showed that Triplex

points" and of failing to understand its business.

man and chief executive.

ill-considered and inaccurate Lloyd's £58m offer was "Indicrously low".

DAY

Cook's business and prospects," claimed Andrew Cook, chair-

of pre-tax profits of not less than

Triplex Lloyd is offering 312p

"Once again Triplex Lloyd is

William Cook said its forecast

IN THIS WEEKEND'S

NDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

Each month, 1,000 works of art are stolen. Few are

recovered. Why? Geraldine Norman on the secrets

of Interpol's Most Wanted Works of Art register

Plus: a new short story by Steven Heighton, Michael Bywater's seasonal reflections, and Martin Rowson's

radical reinterpretation of A Christmas Carol

and in real life

Flirting with misogyny – a panto dame defends his craft. Plus: Christmas flashpoints and how

to avoid them; the new men of rap; perfect party

dresses; and the long-awaited outsize directory

in cash and shares, but William and its pursuer, Birmingham-indulging in cheap jibes in an athased Triplex Lloyd, reached a tempt to divert shareholders at-where between 500p-700n on where between 500p-700p on the basis of the new forecast. Cook's shareholders to question the quality of earnings which William Cook has forecast.

It noted that on 25 October William Cook issued a "downbeat" interim statement in which Mr Cook said William

**PROPHETS** 

Every age has its

prophets: original

agitators whose

civilisation for a

more. Who will be

the voices of the

new millennium?

generation or

thinkers or

ideas shape

the resulting cut in productioo

£8.8m for the year to March, implying no growth in the secood balf over the previous year.

But Triplex Lloyd said that just eight days after it an-nounced its offer, Mr Cook had already begun to guarantee

Cook was seeing a thinning in continued profit growth in the order books and that he viewed second half of the current year. "We do not accept this prof-

with concern.

Six days later a report by UBS, William Cook's own broker, forecast less than 5 per cent growth in pre-tax profits to is an implausible short-term reaction to our offer."

Mr Cook said the forecast

was struck before the bid defence costs but after refurbishment costs of £2.2m charged to the profit and loss account.

### IN BRIEF

• The prospect of cheaper international phone services was raised yesterday after the DTI licensed 44 international phone operators, ending the duopoly over foreign traffic between BT and Mercury. Of 46 companies who applied, 44 were granted licences, including US giant AT&T, Racal and Energis, the phone company owned by National Grid. Mike Grabiner, Energis chief executive, said the news was a "buge opportunity", raising the prospect of joint ventures to law further international phone cobbe expective. He said. ventures to lay further international phone cable capacity. He said new operators would also be able to expand customer services, including overseas private networks for businesses for the first time.

 Dominion Resources, the US utility company which has made a £1.3bn agreed takeover bid for East Midlands Electricity, yes-terday bought 15 per cent of shares in the Nottingham-based regional power supplier. Dominion spent £199m on the stake which it bought at the bid price of 670p a share. It also disclosed it had received acceptances so far from investors with 35.3 per cent of East Midlands shares, which means the Virginia company speaks for just over 50 per cent of its hid target. A spokesman denied the share buying was a sign it feared a counter bidder would arrive on the scene. East Midlands shares rose 3p to 664p.

 President Clinton is expected to announce that Janet Yellen, currently a Federal Reserve Governor, will become the new chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers. Subject to Senate confirmation, she will replace Joseph Stiglitz, who is moving to become chief economist at the World Bank. Separately, the White House said yesterday that the President will make the major decisions on the next fiscal year's budget by the end of this week. It is due to be presented to Congress early in February.

 The Bundeshank set a two-year policy target yesterday, extending the usual period for its money supply target in order to map out the way to the introduction of the euro on 1 January 1999. It left all key interest rates unchanged after yesterday's council meeting

 Zhenhai Refining and Chemical will today become the first equity-related Chinese listing on the London Stock Exchange.
 The company has raised \$200m (£120m) through a convertible hond issue, which was 10-times oversubscribed.

BAT Industries has sold Henri Wintermans Cigar company for £55m to Skandinavisk Tobakskompagni, the Dutch group. BAT hokis a 32 per cent stake in Skandinavisk.

	Compa	ny Resu	lts	
	2 revouraT	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Armour Trust (I)	17.5m (19.9m)	0.54m (1.3m)	1.6p (2.5p)	0.46p (0.46p)
Asda (1)	3.45bn (3.04bn)	232m (138m)	6.57p (3.51p)	0.81p (0.72p)
Acatos & Holcheson (F)	282m (294m)	7.7m (7 8m)	14.Sp (12.2p)	5.5p (10p)
London Mershaul Sec (1)	· (·)	15,1m (25.9m)	3.69p (7.58p)	0.8p (0.8p)
NSM (I)	60.6m (54.4m)	-75.5m (2.5m)	-123p (3.9p)	nii (-)
Staneleo (I)	1.0m (0.86m)	0.02m (-0.10m)	6.003p (-0.014p)	nii (-)
Shwart & Wight (I)	· (-)	0.22m (0.18m)	9.4p (7.85p)	nii (nii)
Tring hall (I)	10.4m (12.9m)	-2.41m (1.44m)	-4.25p (2.13p)	nl (1.42p)
Warner Estates (F)	23.1m (14.2m)	10,1m (8.55m	15.92p (13.85p)	12.2p (·)

# Vauxhall creates 900 jobs in new van partnership

Michael Harrison

new van making facilities at its IBC Vehicles plant in Luton. Together with extra employment among suppliers, the total number of jobs created could be as high as 2,700.

The go-ahead for the investment came yesterday after Vauxhall's parent company, General Motors, and the French car group Renault signed an agreement in Paris to develop a new medium van

As part of the agreement, Renault will start supplying Vauxhall with a version of its Trafic van early next year. It will be sold in Britain as the Vauxhall Arena and will replace the Midi, which IBC stopped build-

plant, which already makes the Frontera four-wheel drive vehicle, will be 60,000 a year and 75 per cent of production will be for export.

Together with development expenditure, the total cost of the van project could be as high as £400m. Nick Reilly, chairman of Vauxhall and IBC Vehicles. declined to say what total investment would be hat be said it was such that neither manufacturer could have afforded to

launch the new van alone. Just under half the £180m investment will be at the IBC plant and the rest, funded evenly by Vauxhall and Renault,

will be spent on supplier tooling. The agreement will also see ing earlier this year.

The new van will bave a Renault supplying Vauxhall with an entirely new van for the

weight range of 2.5-2.8 tonnes heavy sector of the market in and is due to go into production two years time. The van to be Vauxhall is to create 900 jobs at the turn of the century. Outmanufactured at Renault's with a £180m investment in put of the van from the IBC Batilly plant in France, will replace the Renault Master and will compete with bigger end of the Ford Transit range.

The European van market is currently running at around 300,000 a year. The 60,000 production targeted by Vauxhall and Renault for the new van at Luton is significantly higher than the combined output of the Trafic and Midi ranges.

The Luton plant currently employs 1,800 on production of the Frontera, which is running at 33,000 a year. Although production of the Midi was phased out earlier this year there were no joh losses as workers were shifted onto the Frontera line. IBC Vehicles is 82 per cent owned by General Motors and 18 per cent by Isuzu Motors of

### Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct

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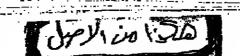
Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct Preferential Variable Rate 6.74% per annum.

Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct Personal Choice Variable Rate 7.24% per annum.



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# market report/shares

Festive cheer escapes Matthew Clark as Footsie jumps FISE 100 <u>4051.3</u> +33.1 FTSE 250 4406.8 +26.3 2009.4 +15.4 SEAQ VOLUME 1.1bn shares, 35,239 bargains

Gifts Index

260p it is just above its lowest brewer. for six years. 94.03 +0.22 drinks industry, by complaining the alcopops vogue had devastated its cider sales, prof-Share spotlight it forecasts were sliced from more than £70m to around

£50m. The shares, riding high

There was a notable absentee from yesterday's festive march.

Matthew Clark, the drinks group, remained firmly in the stock market doghouse; at the world's second-largest because

Millers, striving to improve There are fears of more profit downgradings. When in September Matthew Clark rocked the market, and the drinks industry by complain. It could, according to drink trade gossip, see Matthew Clark's distribution network,

which includes the Freetraders at more than 800p earlier in the year, collapsed.

They are so distressed that the cider and wine group looks ripe for a takeover bid. For some time there have been magging suggestions that Gnin
They are so distressed that the cider and wine group looks ripe for a takeover bid. For some time there have been magging suggestions that Gnin
They are so distressed that the cider and wine group looks ripe for a takeover bid. For some time there have been magging suggestions that Gnin
They are so distressed that the cider and wine group looks of the cider and wine group looks ripe for a takeover bid. For some time there have been magging suggestions that Gnin
They are so distressed that the cider and wine group looks of the cider and wine grou



### MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

takeover action embraced one of those rare occasions Storehouse. The retailer has been in the dumps largely because of negative comment from Barclays de Zoete Wedd.

With stories of a 300p-a-share offer spriding cround the price.

Railtrack was squeezed of the price of the price

offer swirling around, the price rose 8.5p to 261p with Seaq putting volume at a remarkably

Manchester Utd, responding to the plan to create an FTSE football subsection, raced to a

641.5p peak, up 26.5p.
Airtours, aiming to buy Costa Crociere. Europe's largest cruise company, in partnership with its biggest shareholder, Carnival Corporation, climbed

27.5p higher to 398p, a peak, on dividend buying: BTR's revival continued with an 8.5p United News & Media, revival continued with an 8.5p

Ruberaid, the building materials group, tumbled 10.5p to 100.5p following a profit warning; it plans to hold its yearly dividend at 6.1p. Hunters Armley, a printer, gained 12.5p to 105p as Pannare Gordoo foreget war's profits of £4.8m

cast year's profits of £4.8m against £1.8m. Lanica, the Andrew Regan vehicle, spurted another 150p to 1,250p (after 1,300p); stories go around about a deal with Littlewoods but the company has yet to make a statement.

Bruntcliffe Aggregates gained 2p to 28.5p as Bardon exercised opnions, acquiring a 22.72 per cent interest. Bardon, itself an old takeover favourite,

was unchanged at 33.5p.

Geo Interactive Media added 8p to 61.5p after director David Goldman, chairman waite and the Sonley family

Chemical Design, floated at 110p in August, held at 155p. The developer of data-based software for the drugs industry has landed a contract with Abbott Laboratories, a leading US group, and a collabo-rative research deal with Metacrine, a New Jersey startup company. Robin Lodge, chairman of the DCS computer services group, has become non-executive chairman.

Nearly a quarter of the shares of Olex-traded Barnham Broom, an East Anglian hotel company, have changed hands. The stakes held by SPP Ventures and the old British & Commonwealth Holdings have been sold to clients of stock-

	300 Matthew	ome time there have been tagging suggestions that Guin- less, the beer and spirit giant which has recently dipped its oe ioto the cider market, could be interested in swal- owing Matthew Clark, But a	Anheuser Busch, has already exchanged a licence deal for its own brewery, the old Watney's plant at Mortlake. Southwest London.  Another intriguing story of	that Storehouse planned a de- merger, perhaps hiving off its once stand-alone BhS stores chain.  In busy trading Footsie jumped 33:1 points to 4,051.3, only 21.8 from its peak. It was	ter a US legal judgement which could cost up to \$554m. Whit-bread, off 14.5p to 761p, reflected the departure of chief executive Peter Jarvis, architect of the reshaping of the brewery group.	against a 77p placing; Rountain Forestry moved to 84.5p from its 75p placing and Linden, a housebuilder, from 150p to 164.5p. Xenova, a drugs group placed at 215p, edged ahead to 216.5p.	tor David Goldman, chairman of computer group Sage, dou- hled his shareholding to 100,000, buying shares at 60p; Martin Shelton, a diaries business, rose 4.5p to 74.5p.  broker Renderson Crossin- waite and the Sunley family, John Gunn, formerly at B&C, is chairman of Barnham, which expects record profits this year. It made £411,000 last year. The shares held at 48p.
## 19 National Bit   4 Colors   5 National Bit   5 National	200   1   1   1   2   2   2   2   2   2   2	## Chick has recently dispect in the color of the city of market of the city	OWY Drewery, the old Wat-    New State   Mortiaice   South-   West London	Chain.  In busy trading Footsic imped 33:1 points 10 4,051.3, only 21.8 from its peak. It was a property of the peak of the pe	flected the departure of chief exceptive Peter Jarvis, architect of the reshaping of the brew- cry group.    1866	Total	held his shareholding to include the property shares at 100,000, buying shares buying shares share proase by phone from Landon Standard St
MAN AN A		05 April: Mile	1996 Stock Price Chy Yel Cude H	GOVERNMEN  Sept. Low Stock Price City 7td Code    127 14 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	t Securities  1990 1990 1990 1991 1991 1991 1991 19	The GLT   State Rose   ST   N   1   1   1   1   1   1   1   1   1	Best   120   Procedure   15   16   16   16   16   16   16   16

affair, the Barings col-

lapse and the Deutsche

Morgan Grenfell unit trust

scandal have given a new lease

of life to a long-running argu-

meot about whether there

should be a root and hranch

reform of financial regulation.

course, but a curiosity of this lat-

est tichate is that some of the

most senior figures in the City

are proposing much more rad-

ical solutions than the Labour

Party. The politicians who on

the hustings are most inclined

to put the boot in have actually

taken quite a conciliatory

The story begins with Labour's proposal that all the

regulators governed by the

1986 Financial Services Act

should be rolled up into a sin-

Authority, Imro. the fund man-

agement regulator, and the Personal Investment Authority, which looks after savings, would be merged into the senior reg-ulator, the Securities and

investments Board. The result

would be a single statutory or-

ganisation, similar to the US Securities and Exchange Com-

mission, though perhaps with

rather more input from practi-

The Government does not

like this idea at all, and prefers

the status quo. Among the reg-

ulators themselves, the SIB is

thought to be discreetly sup-portive of the thrust of the

Labour proposals - unsurpris-

ingly, since it would be the win-

ning bureaucracy. However,

executives in charge of the junior regulatory bodies such as

the SFA, the PIA and Imro

The SFA and the PIA are

canvassing openly for much

more radical reorganisation

than the Labour Party has pro-

posed, and they have a number

of influential City figures cheer-

One explanation of the con-

cerns of the junior regulators is,

of course, that they may be wor-

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think it a rather poor idea.

tioners than in the US.

The Securities and Futures

approach to the issue.

gle institution.

We've been here before, of

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COMMITTEE STATE ST



Peter Rodgers

To merge banking and securities

regulation would have important implications for

the Bank of

England because it might lose its supervision role' ried about becoming mere division heads at the SIB under a Labour government. But they do have a convincing point to make about the risks of merg-

ing the entire gamut of regulatioo of personal savings and of the professional markets into a unified body. Savings regulation is basically consumer protection, to prevent

sharks preying on small fish, as they did in the pension trans-For the markets the priorities are rather different. Certainly, the sharks need to be kept out of the pool if at all possible. But professional investors and dealers should be better able than savers to look after

financially healthy and well-run Regulatioo should therefore

Labour's proposals aren't

radical enough for the City

However, Barings gives a third dimension to the argument, as the the Commons

covered by the Financial Ser-

were securities such as bonds. Taking the ideas canvassed by the SFA and the PIA to their logical conclusion, what is the justification for the continued separation of hanking and securities regulation? If a bank or a securities firm gets into trouble, the investigations overlap at every point, making a hard

Bank of England, as the select committee pointed out, be-cause it might lose its banking themselves, so the priorities are fair and open trading and

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THE STATE SECRETARY SECRETARY SECRETARY

FINANCIAL TIMES

between a consumer protection the bank with losing the and a market policing organisation, to reflect these differ-

ences of emphasis. The \$2.6bn losses made by Sumitomo in the copper market and the hundreds of millions Deutsche Bank is pouring into Morgan Grenfell to pay for the losses at its unit trust business illustrate the difference betweeo the two types of regulation. The former was an entirely professional market and the latter a savings business.

Treasury Committee pointed It is hard, in modern markets, to make a clear distinction between hanking, which is supervised by the Bank of England, and the securities and investment markets, which are

vices Act. Banks are deeply involved in securities trading, while the securities industry has been stealing business from banks by persuading their customers to borrow in the markets instead. Indeed, convergence between the two industries has gone so far that this week a group of banks has been discussing setting up a formal market in which they can trade hank loans between themselves treating them exactly as if they

k more difficult. To merge banking and securities regulation would have important implications for the

supervision role to some oew The select committee went

Interest Rates

**Bond Yields** 

supervision function if it did not prove its performance. The MPs drew back from making this a firm recommendation. Labour, too, has steadily backed away from its earlie

investigations of whether to break up the Bank of England. There are some well-rehearsed arguments against creating a new independent superregulator for securities and banking, and they should not be

dismissed lightly.
Indeed, the Bank has a much hetter reputation for its super-vision techniques among its oversees peers than it has in the UK, so it cannot be doing everything wrong. Problems such as Barings pale into insignificance compared with the savings and loans collapse in the US, the Japanese and Swedish banking crises and the French

débâcle over Credit Lyonnais. The Bank has shown no signs so far of wanting to hand over supervision to anybody else. But some detect a softe line emerging. It is possible to imagine Eddie George, the Governor, launching an examination of the merger of banking and securities regulation, in certain circumstances. He might agree to give up super-vision if Britain stays outside the single currency but gives its cen-tral bank true independence.

An argument against radical change, put forcefully by Sir Andrew Large, chairman of the SIB, is that no matter how good the alternative system, the years of change will be disruptive and dangerous, so that slow evolution is preferable. Labour's difficulty is that by embracing a half-way solution, which includes substantial

changes but may well not be

more radical ideas emerging

radical enough to cope with the markets of the 21st century, it will have the worst of both worlds-much disruption for little real benefit. It would make more sense to do nothing at all until a very good look has been taken at the

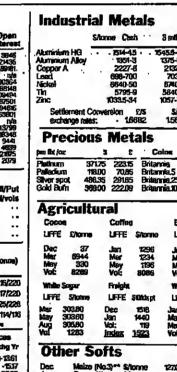
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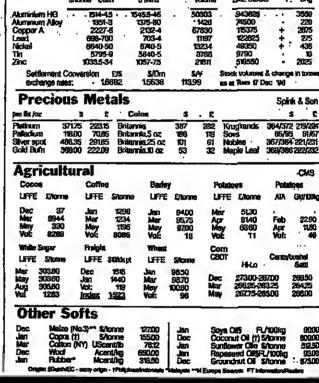
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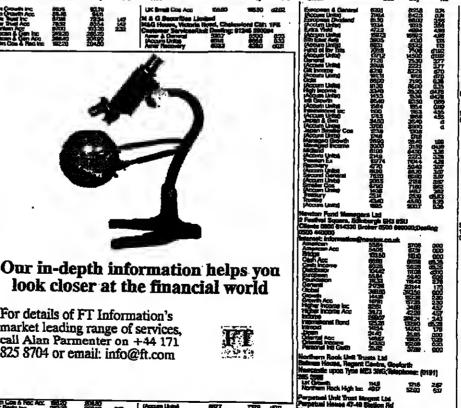
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# his sights on greener pastures PEOPLE & BUSINESS

Whitbread chief executive sets

Peter Jarvis is stepping down as chief executive of Whitbread after 12 years in the post. This may be no surprise, but at only 55, what is he going to do? "Tm looking forward to playing more golf and getting to know my wife," he said. "I gave up golf 30 years ago when I got married. I'm a member of three clubs so I will probably play at

He will also spend more time on what he describes as "my big boat" which is moored at Chichester. Leaving Whitbread after 20 years will be a wrench for Cambridge-educated Mr Jarvis, who joined the brewer in 1976 after 12 years at Unilever. During his tenure as chief executive he signed the franchise agreement for TGI

Goodwood near where we

Friday and bought
Boddingtons, Berni Inns and
Peter Dominic, as well as
Pelican and Brightreasons more recently. He has also worked closely with his successor, David Thomas, on two landmark acquisitions last year which saw Whitbread snap up David Lloyd Leisure and 16 Marriot hotels. Mr Thomas, 52, will take over next summer. He joined

Whitbread in 1984 as a

regional director in the inns

division. More recently he has run the restaurants and Andrew Cook, top man at metalbasher William Cook, is not known for a lack of selfpromotion. So there is one big surprise in his company's corporate video now being circulated in the City as part of the group's defence against

He doesn't appear in it. It is always interesting to note which companies try to slip in an annual general meeting or egm in the fallow period between Christmas and New Year. Sometimes there are genuine reasons for this. But oo other occasions, the dates

**Liffe Financial Futures** 

**Trust Prices** 

the bid from Triplex Lloyd.

KENYA TINENTAL PEABERRY BLEND DECAFFEINATED aiting in the wings: Whitbread's David Thomas

are chosen hecause the

company doesn't really want anyone to come. Top of the list in this category is Costain, the accident-prone construction company. Costain is selling its US coal husiness and is holding an egm to approve the sale on 27 December. No doubt the reason is that Costain is keen to avoid ton many New Age travellers trudging aloog to protest about the construction of the Newbury bypass which Costain is building. This

follows the group's agm

earlier in the year which

degenerated into farce with protesters storming the podium and security men being called in.

Costain denies it is being

furtive: "Absolutely not. It's

just a matter of procedure." A hard core of protesters will probably turn up anyway. Burton has/jazzed up its annual report by publishing it as a glossy magazine. Chief executive John Hoerner's favourite model, Helena Christiansen, graces the cover. Inside, sections oo

each of the formats such as

Dorothy Perkins and

Principles look like fashion spreads. "We thought, well, we're a fashioo retailer. We ought to try something different," says spokeswoman Amanda Bassett.

Bibulous businessmen should make a beeline for South Korea, according to a new guide, "Ceotral Expatriate" by Arthur Andersen. There, visiting executives are expected to take to the tincture in a big way after a hard day at the conference table. Unlike the depressing Anglo-American treod towards abstinence, the Koreans like to enjoy themselves, and the Andersen guide counsels that at business partics one should be prepared to sing. A refusal

Apparently, however, it is not mandatory to get as drunk as one's host. Sometimes one is taken to the Korean version of a geisha house, where the women are regarded as

"talking furniture" rather than sex objects. The Japanese have a similar attitude to alcohol and are among the heaviest drinkers in Asia. However, it should be remembered that the Japanese seem to have a greater ability to recover from hangovers and foreign businessmen should be on parade first thing in the

morning.

And finally, here are some trend predictions for 1997, courtesy of marketing consultancy New Solutions,

The trend for all things "clear", "lite" and "pure" will make way for a boom in all things red, even red beers.

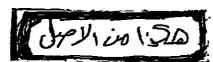
• Madonna's new film Evita will lead to an outhreak of South American themes, including food and dance crazes.

will go national. The advent of the recordable You have been warned.

Nigel Cope

Supermarket home delivery

sport



# Club shows whip flexibility

JOHN COBB

The old descriptions of an intractable, unwavering Jockey Club meting out racing discipline with an iroo rod were just about buried for good yesterday wheo its ocw, flexible instructions on whip abuse were an-

This attempt to tackle one of the sport's most controversial problems was received well by just about every section of the racing industry and, more importantly, by the RSPCA. Had that organisation condemned the revised instructions - which could be perceived as more lenient - instead of contributing to their making, then another shower of bad publicity could have rained down on the sport.

### RESULTS

TOWCESTER

12.40: 1. AMBIDECTROUS (I. Cusmins)
6-1: 2. Polo Pony 16-1: 3. Saymore 12-1.
15 ran. 7-4 fav Kashan (5th). 9, 1½. [E Alston, Longoni. Totes: 27.40: 21. 70, 25-10,
23.10. DF: £75.40, CSF: £96.62. Tricast:
1.10: 1. WHATTABOB (M A Fragsach! 7-2;
2. Remelleh 10-1: 3. Bridepark Rose; 10-1.
15 ran. 11-4 fav Levy Knight; (5h). 3. 2½.
(N Henderson, Lambourn). Totes: £5.20;
£2.70. £2.70, £3.60. DF: £25.30. CSF:
£43.91. Tric: £269.00. NR: Histopous. No
7 Histopous was windrawn not under orders.
Rule 4 does not apply. no market formed.
1.40: 1. ROBSERTY LEA (P Never) evens
tev: 2. Stac-Polisidis 9-1: 3. Quiet Mistress
5-2. 11 ran. 19, 17. (Mrs. M Reveley, Sah.
burni. Tote: £1.90: £1.70, £2.20, £1.10.
DF: £18.70. CSF: £10.98. Tric: £6,70.
2.10: 1. BEATSON (B Powel) £-4 tev; 2.
Judelt Jones 4-1: 3. Dr. Recicle 100-30. 5
ran. 19, 8, (R Buckler, Bedport). Totes: £1.50; TOWCESTER

Man Mood. 2.40: 1. RED BLAZER (J Oshorne) 9-4 fax: 2. Sprintfayre 12: 1; 3. Ferrers 33-1. 16 ran. 12; ½. (Mass H Krught, Wantage). Tota: £4.10: £1.60. £2.00, £11.60. 0F: £31.80.

far, Thaty Below, After a stewards 'Inquiry, the placings remained unablered.

3.10: 1. PRICE'S HILL (C O'Dwyer) 4-1:
2. River Mandata 5-2 g. tay 3. Spurffington 11-1. 12 ran, 5-2 g. tay Even Blue (Sth).
4. sth-hd. (K Balley, Upper Lambourn). Tobac 54.70; £1.30, £2.40, £4.30. DF; £7.10. CSF; £1.5, 44. Truest: £102.42. Trice: £52.60.

3.40; 1. PRINCEFUL (G Hugan) 7-2; 2. Billingsegats 7-1; 3. King Mole 7-1. 15 ran, 7-4 fav Shore Parry (Eth). 2/s. 3. (Års.) Pirman, Upper Lambourn). Totac £5.00; £1.70, £3.70, £2.10. DF; £21.30. CSP, £32.82, 76c; £64.00.

Jackpot: £7,100,00 (part won; bool of £463,94 carried forward to Hereford today). Placepot: £163.30. Quadpot: £9,70. Place 6: £135.31. Place 5: £22,79.

RICHARD EDMONDSON **NAP: Westwell Boy** (Hexham 3.00) **NB: Hay Dance** (Hereford 3.50)

CATTERICK

12.20: 1. KING PIN (R Supple) 9-4 fav; 2. Lagen Bridge 3-1; 3. Major Hands 12-1. 17 ran. 1½, 21. (P Becumont, Brands-by), Tote: £3.00; £1.10, £1.10, £6.40, DF; £7.50, CSF; £10.02, Tro: £61.80, NR: Geln Major, Mister Rose. 12.50: 1. BOSWORTH FIELD (M FORIE) 7-2, 10 ram, 2-1 fav Springpill Quey (pulled upl. 6, 5. (Mrs Sarah Homer-Herier, Yarm). Totte: £35-70; £9.80, £8.10, £1.20, DF: £179.00. CSF: £463.09. This: £109.80 front serior.

£279.00. CSF: £463.09. Tho: £109.80 (part won).

1.20: 1. FEN TERRIER (A Doobin) 9-4; 2. Opera Feat 4-1; 3. Fm A Dresenser 7-2. 5 man. 7-4 for Pengesan (St). 5, 10. (F Murrash). Carlsie). Total: £4.30; £1.30. £1.40. DF: £11.70. CSF: £11.27. ESF: £11.71. £4.30; £1.30. £1.40. DF: £11.70. CSF: £11.11. 1.50: 1. TWIN FALLS (I Calleghen) 1.3-8; 2. Port in A Storm 11-8 fer: 3. Prostline Andrea Feat Of Prasser, The Murster.

2. Port in A Storm 11-8 fer: 3. Prostline Andrea Feat Of Prasser, The Murster.

2. 20: 1. PHARARCE (A S Smith) 2-1 fay; 2. Smert Approach 4-1; 3. Raileisessels 3-1. 7 mn. 1½. 19. (R Woodhouse, York). Total: £2.40; £1.60, £1.70. DF: £4.40. CSF: £10.27. Tho: £7.00. NRs: Ballindoo, Trondose.

Ballindoo, Troctos.

150: 1. HEAVENLY CITIZEN (B Storey)
16-1: 2. Kentratore-Speed 13-8 fer; 3.
Sparrow Hat6 9-2. 2 ran. 8, 14. (J Gledton, Henram). Totte: 525.80; £f. 80, 53.50. DF: 518.10. CSF: £42.57. Titeast: £132.72. NR: Collect About Data State 13-2.72. NR: Collect 13

Edit Alead, Pats Ministral.
3.20: 1. Polint REMES (N Homodis) 2-1 (6x; 2. Nitsef 10-1; 3. Harfdocent 9-4, 13 ran. Str.-hd. str.-hd. (C Thoman, Middeham). Inter 12.40; £1.30, £3.90, £1.50. DF, £9.40.
SSF: £22.82. Trio; £24.70. Nit Mas Forthern.

Piacepot: £246.70. Quadpot: £11.00. Piace 6: £158.79. Piace 5: £100.82.

Piace B: £158.79, Piace B: £100.82.

0.0: 1, MARUCHE ROSE (0 Wight) 13-2;
2. Sites M: £1.23, (Mins Bost 12-1, 23 ran.
9-4 fav Primula Baim (4th), 1, 114. (A Baley), Totae £6.80; £1.80, £2.50, £5.20, Df.
£22.50, CSF: £38.53, Tito: £33.20,
1.30: 1, THREE WEEKS (Done O'Neil) 74 fav. 2. Firitstone 20-1; 3. Yeoman Oliver 20-1, 13 ran. 214, 6, IW Muth, Totae
£2.20; £1.20, £3.20, £4.40, DP. £43.90,
CSF: £36.36, Titose: £544.59, Titos £208.90
(part worl).

(part worth. 200: 1 MR FROSTY (S Sanders) 11-2; 2. Chadwell Hall 4-1; 3. The Happy Fox 8-1, 12 ran. 2-1 fav Palacegate Jack, Hd, 3. NV Jarvis, Yoster £6.80; £3.60, £1.70, £1.50. DF: £20.80, CSF: £28.98, Tex. £58.90, NR: N

126.40. (SF: \$24.17. Incast 2.500.4. Inc.
126.40. (part Won).
3.00: 1. NOBRORE MIR NICEGATY (A. Cuiray 6.1. 9 ran. 6-4 fev Double-0 (5th). 2½.
3. (E. Alston). Tote: £11.20; £3.00, £1.60,
£2.90. DF: £19.20. CSF: £70.72. Theast:
£530.15. Tho: £32.40. NR: Amico. No 7 Amico. (25/1) was withdrawn not under orders.
Put A dress not £0004.

kio (25/1) was withinship to trible orders.

Rule 4 does not apply.

3.30: 1. MASTER FOLEY (T G McLaughfin) 11-1; 2. Terry's Rose 16-1; 3. Will To
Wiln 12-1. 13 rain, Evens fav Lightning Bot.

7. 1/4. (N Littmoden). Total: £15.30; £3.50,
£3.60. £3.00. DF. £144.50, CSF. £155.80.

Tho: £247.70 loan won, After a sawwins
mously, the placings remained unaltered.

4.00: 1. RASSYEL (MY WhoLaughin) 10-1;

2. Section Midden 11-2.

4.00: 1. HASSATEL (NEW MILESEME 11-1; 2. Colosse 4-1 ft far; 3. Solden Hedeer 11-2 12 ran, 4-1 ft fav Krinescash, Ho. 5. (P Evens), Tota: £10.10: £2.10, £1.10, £3.20, DF: £21.90, CSF: £54.70, Trosst: £240.16, Tros 53.70.
4.30: 1. QUENZE MARTIN (S. Drowne) 12-1:
2. Monis 14-1: 3. Sea Denzig 8-1. 12 ran.
9-4 faw Rurning Green. 1%, Ind. (D. Haydn Jones). Tota: £11.70: £2.20, £3.20, £3.70.
DF: £41.70. GBF: £159.92. Incest:
£1.334.67. Too: £67.70.
Place 6: £807.73. Place 5: £303.37.



Outcries have followed bans handed out to jockeys after several hard-fought, big-race finishes this year, notably those given to Frankie Dettori for whip abuse following his victo-ries in both the 2,000 Guineas and St Leger.

The revised instruction, which comes into effect on 1 February, removes the present "trigger mechanism" which tells stewards to consider an inquiry if a jockey uses the whip more than five times. Instead, stew-ards will have greater discretion to look into "anything which might cause them concern", and have been given examples of improper use of the whip to

Decisions on "excessive" use will be determined by factors such as a horse's experience, its response to the whip and the de-

A survey of raceborse owners

published today contradicts the

view of a vocal minority who

claim that the sport will perish

unless owners are able to re-

cover a greater proportion of their costs through prize-

money. The survey suggests.

that owners are prepared to pay

for the fun they get from rac-

ing despite the prospect of lit-tle or oo financial reward.

The joint British Horseracing Board/Weatherby's question-

naire revealed that 86 per cent

of owners felt that excitement

and fun were the most impor-

tant reason behind their con-

tinued active participation in

12.50 Star Selection (nb)

1.20 FAIRY KNIGHT (nap)

1.50 Time Leader

2.20 Northern Singer

use as criteria.

gree of force used. Vets will be abuse. Now it will be up to the asked to examine all placed vets, which is as it should be." being used sensibly and in a fashion acceptable to onlookers. horses and a random selection of others after a race, although the fact that a horse has not been marked need not prevent the stewards finding that excessive force has been used.

It is stressed, though, that serious breaches of the instructions will bring stricter penalties from the stewards.

Toby Balding, a National Trainers' Federation council member, said: "Some of the instances of jockeys being done were wrong, but the instructions were such that the stewards were put in a difficult position: as soon as a jockey went over the required number of hits they had to have an inquiry.
This gives the stewards more

Optimism among owners

cial and economic profile of

ownership is changing. The number of white and blue col-

lar" C1, C2, D and E groups in-

volved in racehorse ownership

has increased from 29 per cent

of owners to 37 per cent since

the last survey, two years ago.

Lee Richardson, the BHB's

bias towards the more affluent,

but the ownership base is

widening. Owners are increas-

The survey also found that

ingly working people."

2.50 Halbant Tarn

3.50 Sallen

Hight-hand course with 300yd run-in.

■ Course is is N of city on A49, Hereford station 1m. ADMISSION: Club 512; Tantersalis 59; Course Enclosure 55, CAR PARK; Free.

ELADING TRAINERS WITH EUNNERS: M Pipe -- 33 winners from 161 runners gives a success ratio of 32.7% and a profit to a \$11 level stake of \$19.60; N Twiston-Davies -- 26 winners, 88 runners, 29.5%, +\$21.80; K Balley -- 15 winners, 76 runners, 19.7%, 522.60; P Hobbs -- 14 winners, 50 runners, 23.7%, +\$1.81.

\*\*\*LEADING JOCKEYS: D Bridgwater -- 26 winners, 112 rides, 23.2%, +\$23.48; R Danwegody --19 winners, 64 rides, 25.7%, +\$1.4.20; A P McCop -- 19 winners, 67 rides, 28.4%, +\$39.12; G Llewellya -- 18 winners, 68 rides, 27.9%, +\$4.26.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: The Wayward Bishop (2.30).

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: My Man in Dundalic (2.50) has been sent 158 miles by 8 Curley from Setchworth, Cambridgeshire; Ratishow Fountain (3.20) sent 156 miles by N Lampard from Kingsbiridge, Devon; Night City (12.50) sent 150 miles by 1ady Herites from Augmering Park, West Sussect; Dewtys Trail (3.20) sent 150 miles by P Bowen from Hoverfordwest, Dyfed, Apstara Hati (3.20) sent 20 miles by R Aher from Droop, Donset; Samey's Wolf (3.20) sent 98 miles by N Hawke from Chard, Somerset; Fleet.

iet (2.50), Indian Tracker (3.20) & Robert's Toy (3.50) sem 96 miles by M C

12.50 THYME MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV I) £2,500 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £2,192

10 114 SUPPERME CRAMPI (28) (P ) Vogt K Baley 4 11 5 C O'Dwyer
11 POOCAP WOODLANDS LAD TOO (10) (Moodlands Lin) P Prechard 4 11 5 R Bellany
12 COOGLAP AMAZON HERBITS (7) Sound Gegg L Grassock 4 11 6 G Hogen (3)
13 0-6P SHADY EMMA (42) (D Puge F Indian 4 11 6 S Wymne
13 0-6P SHADY EMMA (42) (D Puge F Indian 4 11 6 S Wymne
13 0-6P SHADY EMMA (42) (D Puge F Indian 4 11 6 S Wymne
13 1 Designation (15) 1 Start Selection, 5-1 Supreme Charm, 8-1 Lasto Adres, 10-1 Bransley
14 11 11 Designation (16) 1 Start Selection, 5-1 Supreme Charm, 8-1 Lasto Adres, 10-1 Bransley

PORM GUIDE

A fair performer on the Flat, winning twice, including a handleap by three lengths under 9st 5lb on the soft at Newbury in March first time up this year, NIGHT CITY will have learned from his hardling debut, fourth behind Denegold at Windsor two weeks ago. The son of Kris held every charne two flights out that day on ground plenty fast enough for him and the cut this time will be to his edverzage. Film Balley's trish import Sepresare Charns, successful in bumpers at Sigo in June on his debut and at Believstown the following month, will be the better for his first run over timber when a 22-length fourth behind Carole's Cruseder in a three-miler at Ascot four weeks ago and should be more at home over this shorter Journey. Brantley May landed a NH Flat race here in May and finished a creditable third bohind Brave Particient at Wordsare in June but has not been our since. Lasta Adree, winner of a Ultimater bumper in May of last year, has not raced since and makes his jumping debut.

Selections NIGHT CITY

1.20 THYME WAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV II) £2,500 added

PORM SUIDE

Nild Day Chaser, who makes he hurding bow, won bumpers on her debut at Doncaster a year ago and on her firel start at Warwiok (in a field of 25) in May and was placed in both attempts in between. She is an interesting hurding recruit, but then again so is DAUNT and the latter, for whom Tory McCoy has been booked, must be the choice. Daunt, who was due to make his hurding debut at lest Saturday's abandoned Haydock meeting, was a good Pat performer when in John Gosden's stable tact year, deed-heating with Thamas Side when conying 10st in a Newbury hurdicarp in July white he ran Spilo to three-pans of a length at Doncaster in September, shouldering Bet 10b. He changed hands for 100,000ghs and is now with Frank Jordan. Fairy Knight was also useful on the level, winning at Goodwood and Redcar in 1995 and at Ascot and Leicester this year. Trained by Richard Hannon, who has done well with his few hurdees over the years. Fairy Knight frashed well beaton against Hoh Warmor at Nowbury last morth on his first outing over timber but finished a seven-length fourth to Danegold at Windsor and that form may be overshadowed by Night City in the first feet of this contest.

- 9 declared 
- 9 declared 
Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap verights: Est De France, The Cheese Baron Set 13th. Analogue Set

10th, Adeptin Rices Set 40.

RETIRES: 7-4 Urben Lity, 3-1 Mahler, 4-4 Cohrell, 9-2 Time Leader, 6-1 Lyphant's Fable, 12-1 The Cheese Berne, 14-1 others

FORM GUIDE

1996: Hightown Covaller 4 10 8 J Hemis 7-2 (R Hodged) 13 ran

2m 1f Penalty Value £2.178

May, 12-1 Drajosstone, 16-1 others 1995: Crack On 5 11 5 8 McCourt 5-4 (P Hobbs) 13 ran

31/ LASTO MARKE (1994) (Mass J Newell) G Thomper 5 11.5 00 Jan NEMP (13) (D H Ammage) A Foster 4 11.5 4 MARTIC CONT (15) (Down International Limited Lady Hennes 5 11.5 63 STAR SELECTION (20) (R M Mischell) J Mackle 5 11.5

3.20 Wandering Light

The survey, which cost only six per cent of owners £10,000, also found that the so-claimed to cover costs but that

marketing director, said: "The major factor. However, prize-money still remains a matter of concern to owners and requires

earned income. There is still a positive action."

The Jockeys' Association secretary, Michael Caulfield, said:

"We hope the new instruction results in fewer suspensions and greater understanding of a delicate and difficult issue "Jockeys will be pleased that the 'trigger figure' has been re-

moved as this has resulted in many unnecessary suspensions."
The Jockey Club's disciplinary committee chairman. Christopher Hall, admitted that adverse media comment on suspensions had helped lead to the search for a new instruction.

"We were already reviewing the use of the whip but there is no doubt that the press coverage concentrated the mind," he said. "Jockeys' use of the whip chance of using their discretion. has improved greatly and we were satisfied that the whip is

90 per cent still expect to be own-

per cent expecting to own more

John Paxman, Director Gen-eral of the Racehorse Owners

Association, said: "Generally

this is eccouraging. The ecco-

Racecourses and trainers

omy has picked up, which is a

horses than they do today.

### a jockey's riding which causes concern if he sees too much use of the whip or too excessive use then they will look at it." However, Caulfield is worried

"But the counting mechanism

was never fully understood and

on occasions has led to people

being called for an inquiry when

nothing has happened, which

would offend anyone. Now the

first question for a steward will

be whether there is anything in

that giving stewards discretion may be a mixed blessing for jockeys. "We still remain coocerned with the Jockey Cluh's definition of excessive frequency," he said. "We fear the oew instruction could continue to result in unjust and unnecessary suspensions to the detri-

### Sound out of King George

Sound Man, who had been secood favourite for the King ing horses in three years, with 50 George VI Chase, is likely to miss the Boxing Day feature despite being one of 11 horses declared yesterday. Edward O'Grady, his trainer, said: "He will go oow for the Comet

Chase at Ascot on 5 February. The withdrawals are Challenger Du Luc, Crystal Spirit, Kadi, Suny Bay and Double Symphony. Jenny Pitman has left in Nahtheo Lad despite a poor effort on Wednesday.

Totac 4-8 One Man, 100-30 Rough Queet (from 9-2), 12-1 Mr Mulligan (from 14-1), Strong Promise, Tyrig Agan, 14-1 Berton Benk (from 16-1), 25-7 Mahthen Led (from 16-1), Algan, Couldn't Be Better, 150-1 Octo Regess.

### were credited by the majority of owners as giving value for money. They also felt that racecourse facilities had improved. added 2m Penalty Value £2,996 DOUBLE STOTISH BAMER (£1) (5D) (Millom J Rely) P Webber 8 12 6 (7ed) J Osbor C3125-P II. BAMERIO (£1) (5D) (Millom J Rely) P Webber 8 12 6 (7ed) J Osbor C3125-P II. BAMERIO (£1) (1J Marries) H Marries 6 11 8 J R A Charles-Jur P25-655 BOLD ACTE (£1) (Jury Marion C Morget) J M Bridge 8 10 12 R Pierr S05-665 BOLD ACTE (£6) (Jury Marion C Morget) J M Bridge 8 10 12 R Pierr P60-610 DUBBICKS VIEW (268) (F Tuctor) F Tuctor 7 10 2 D R Rely P60-610 DUBBICKS VIEW (268) (F Tuctor) F Tuctor 7 10 2 D R Rely P5-F2C RASMEAD RAMBER (20) (Tuctor) F Tuctor 7 10 0 D R Rely P5-P2P CAPACOL (£5) (C 6 Bolard J Morge 7 10 0 D R Rely P60-610 D RELY MAYWARD NESHOR (250 Mars I Tarkot Miss I Trafor 7 10 0 D C O'Connor (7 10 0 D C O'CONNOR (1 10 0 D C O'CONNOR (1

SCOTTISH BANKET gained his first success over fences at the second attempt off 8 man of 78 when beating the subsequent scored Poucher 10 lengths here four weeks ago. Paul Webber's runner is penalised 7to for that, putting him on 12st 8to and he races off 8 25to higher mark but the opposition is far from fornitable and he can dety the herly burden. The scycer-city, who was a flat winner for Richard Hannon's yard in his younger days, followed his course success with 8 17-length second to Flight Lieutenant at Warwick and he found success again when defecting the 3-1-on chance Chery's Lat 8 length and 8 half at at Ludlow 11 days ago. Northern Singler, a hurdles winner at Uttowerer in Merch, finished at 22-length third to Scottish Bambi here when making his fencing debut, He must progress and should finish a lot closer this time. Asknowed Rambbies, a latter at Chetenhem to Cottober on his opening outing this seeson, was besten 23 lengths by Chickabiddy at Taumon (only three finished) and was carried out in Scottish Bernith's race at this course.

Selection: SCOTTISH BAMBI

	2.50	COWSLIP SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,500 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £2,052
<b>1</b>	41150P	APPLIANCED SCIENCE (658) (K O Warner) K Warner 9 11 12
2		HALMANI TARN (7) (H.J. Manners) H Manners 6 11 5
3	P5106-	LAJADHAL (FR) (382) (P 6 Purdy) K Bishop 7 11 5
4	10P0-40	SCOTTISH WEDDING (21) (D) (G Wesman, Reynolds & Dean) 7 Wal 6 11 6 R Moseey (3)
5	00P-P00	BOLD CHARLE (20) (Mrs.) Herrosworth 8 Meter 4 10 12
8		COMEDNUP (B) (M & Cover) J Bradley 5 10 12 R Ferrant
7		FLEET CADET (S) (Sir John Swalne) M Pige 5 10 12 A P McCoy V
В	D/	MY MAN IN DUNDALK (1,000) (Mrs 8 Curiey) 8 Curiey 7 10 12E Marriey
8	00PF50/	MORDIC PLICKE (632) (Lyonshall Recing) R Editory 8 10 12
10	0	STEVES WONDER (13) (Gay Milts) 8 Liencelyn 6 10 12
11	503R4R	TIBBS INM (18) (Mrs C M Lord) A Barrow 7 10 12
12	POP	PERSIAN BUTTERFLY (9) (David Hollums) R Stronge 4 10 7
13	00-00PP	WOODLANDS EMERGY (10) (Woodlands Ltd) P Principal 5 10 7R Bellewy
		_ 12 declared _

BETTHRE: 8-4 Floot Cadet, 4-1 My Man in Dundrik, 8-1 Haltum Ture, 12-1 Scottish Wedding, 14-1 Bold Charlie, Lajadhal, Tibbs Iva., 20-1 others 1996: Erking 5 11 7 N Merri 10-1 (S Mellor) 15 am

Despite dufting in the betting – 5-2 to 4-1. – at Leleaster (good to soft) nine days ago, FLEET CADET came home a decisive winner of a similar race and he looks set to supplement the gains in another weak contest. Hallman Tarm, winner of a huntle race at Kempton in 1993 when trained by Devid Esworth, landed a hunter chase at Leleaster in the spring and followed with a second in the same type of race to King's Treasure at Chettonham, beatten 23 lengths. He was tailed off when he blundered and unseated four out in the handcap chase with by Beatson at on a return to Presidenty Park a week ago but will be fitter now. All the same. Secretish Weddigst minth be a blester danaer. Winner of a Taunton seller lest term. seme, Scottleth Wedding might be a bigger danger. Winner of a Taunton seler lest term, she ran well when fourth to Staadlest Elite at Worcester on her return and both that and her subsequent unpliced Bargor run were in non-selers. Applianceoffselence was successful at Market Resen and Huntragion the season before last but was publisd up at Untrager in June of last year and, being without a race since, looks certain to need this one.

3.20 COMFREY MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3m 1f 110yds Penalty Value £3,200 2m 1f Pernaity Value £2,178

1 DAINT (Superpoit Ind & From Buildings Ltd) Florden 4 11 6 A P Methoy
2 OAP-53 EUROUMN'S MADOW (All O) McCain 0 McCain 4 11 5 D Walsh II
3 O3 FRIETY (Nilight (15) (P & S Lever Pertners) R Himmon 4 11 5 M Williamson
4 EVALUATION (23) OAF CA (Ind.) Specime M Creciped 4 11 5 II Powell
5 O REVARSION (23) OAF CA (Ind.) Specime 4 11 5 T J Memphy
8 50-530 MALLING BROOK (21) (Advrys James) J M Bradby 4 11 5 R Farrant
7 OOS MALLING BROOK (21) (Advrys James) J M Bradby 4 11 5 R Messey (2)
8 RED PHANTON (Ms Gillion Street 11 5 R Messey (2)
9 OP ROYRINGE (12) (Andrew Garest W Brighourse 4 11 5 S SWessey
10 TANDAM ALDOGE (The Toick Perinseyth K Balley 5 11 5 C O'Thwyse
11 3-5 TOTAL JOY (10) (P M Warren) C Merro 15 11 5 T C TOWNSE (12) (Andrew Garest Indeed Processing) P Webber 5 11 6 J C TOWNSE (12) (Andrew Garest Indeed Processing) P Webber 5 11 6 J C TOWNSE (12) (Andrew Garest Indeed P Publisher 1 13 15 J C TOWNSE (14) (Andrew C Townse London S 1 1 Febry Rodgist, 12-1 Total Joy, 14-1 Red Phantons, Bernölek Standow, 20-1 others

FORM QUIDE

FORM GUIDE

INDIAN TRACKER, withher of a Linglied (soft) bumper by 1.1 lengths last March, has not been out since and makes his chasing debut bumper by 1.1 lengths last March, has not been out since and is also sure to know his new job. The six-year-old is not highly fired and can start his new career successfully. Jelly Beek, who landed three point-to-points this year, want from 8-1 to bake those odds when melding his chesing debut here a formight ago and finished a 22-tength fourth behind Mariners Mirror. He is bound to progress for that outing and may provide most danger. Mount Serrath, a remote third to Med Thyme on his fencing bow at Wincenton the season before last, began 1995-96 with a three-length second to Samlee at Tauriton but fell in both subsequent starts that season. Besten seven lengths by Don Du Cadran here on his return, he blundered and unseated at the first at Hunting-don but will be witning when he polishes up his jumping — a remark which also applies to flagsstown Led, who was an wish point-to-point witner in 1985. Brogsen Ledy will have benefited from her promising chasing debut fluenth to Credo is King at Towossier.

Salection: INDAN TRACKER

3.50 ROSEMARY HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £2,857 1F8432 ROBERT'S TOY (33) (b) (Date 0 Smith) M Pipt 5 12 0 AP McCoy
114-133 WADADA RB (Mas S Rongley) 0 Buchell 5 11 5 D Buchell
0/48/50- Seven BLAND (USA) (377) (b) (The White Home Permaship) J Out 8 11 2 E Greeby (7)
06/95-40 MASHAVILE STAR (USA) (13) (b) (Robert Matthew) R Machew 5 10 13 R Baltomy V 

BETTING: 6-4 May Dance, 9-2 Robert's Toy, 5-1 Hashnite Star, 6-1 Salley, 7-1 Worlads, 8-1 St etschkorn Bard, 12-1 others 1996: Comn Hill 8 9 10 7 Descombe 5-1 (R Hodges) 8 ran URBAN LIEY comes here in great heart and can make it three wins out of four for the section. Ron Hodges' numer heat Yet Again fwither of his next two races) half a length at Plumpton (heavy) last month on her reeppearance and defeated Partistaine 24 lengths there less time. In between withries, liman lity was bedly hampered and unaented of the start of Burlington Sam's race at Easter, where Time Leader, who went off favourits, finished second, beaten a length and a half, and Mactain Rote was a long way back in fifth filling leader has been as success but he also made the frame in his two preceding races and may provide most danger with promising rider Awker Abpuru egain on board. The recent Ludiow winner Cohwall can also figure with the 7th penalty but Meakler has not shown a great deal, is on top weight in his first handloop and has not been out since April.

Selections URBAN LILY

HAY DANCE, an Irish acquisition, went in at Taunton in November and is only a pound higher here racing off the same mark as when beaten a length and a half by the useful Aenon at Sandown. Philip Hobbs' flee-year-old can return to winning form with Norman Williamson booked for the ride. Roberts Tey won over fences here on his final appearance test aceson and at Market Rasen on his return. But he was a faller must time and, after finishing tailed off at Easter in August, has reverted to hurding, going under only a neck to Market on at Chehanham on his most recent outing. He is 2th higher but could pose the male threat. Waddeds rarely runs a bed race and was returning from a three-month break when third behind the gambled-on Barford Sovereign at Fakenham eight days ago. Salley is enother consistent type and followed lest month's Plumpton (soft) victory with seconds to Canary Falson at Kempton and Denegold at Windsor.

### HYPERION

1.10 Most Equal 1.40 Oban 2.10 Flesh is The Pan 2.40 Mister Oddy 3.10 Ocean Leader 3.40 Mighty Moss

GOING: Soft.

Left-hand course. Run-in of 170yd.

Course is SE of town near BSO17. Unioneser resilion (Derby-Crewe line) adjoints course. ADMISSION: Club \$15 (DAPs £12);
Tantersuffs £10 (DAPs £7); Course £3, CAR PARK: Pres-

HLINERED FIRST TORE: Indian Samet, Tathasin (stored, 2.10).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Coole Cherry (3.40) has been sext 180 miles by C R Barwell from Stootleigh, Devon.

1.10 STREBEL BOILERS & RADIATORS HANDI-CAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 

- B declared BETTHIG: 2-1 Most Equal, 6-2 Soint Cloi, 4-1 Tojone Gold, 6-1 Mosting
Out, 7-1 Mr Bureaucral, 12-1 others 1.40 LEFLEY'S HOG ROAST NOVICE CHASE

~7 declared — BETTIMC: 5-2 Chen, 7-2 Tales The Excitation, 5-1 Sunnet And Wan, 6-1. Thursday Might, Zalkson, 7-1 Stipmette, 10-1 Major Look

2.10 BURTON ALBION FC NOVICE SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,450 3YO 2m

OF APPEAL ADMR (23) 6 Burstel 10 10. Bury Lawis CR)
OF APPEAL ADMR (23) 6 Burstel 10 10. Bury Lawis CR)
OF DOWN HAMENEY (20) 84x 8 Smith 10 10. Bury Lawis CR)
OF DOWN (30) R Dubr 10 10. C Limentifies
OF NOBIOC HERD (22) A Janus 10 10. A MeCharity R
OF NOBIOC HERD (22) A Janus 10 10. C Davidus (2)
OF HORIZHERN DIAMOND (16) Men M Powend 10 10. Bury lights.
PALLITH (20) N Sector 10 10. R General
RESOLANDER D (16) M Chemon 10 10. R Hagino V

0 TATHAMN (16) J Booky 20 10
US ARCH ANGEL (7) G Charles-Jones 10 5
3 FAASH NI THE PAN (45) J S HORT 10 5
20963 HOW CORDE-1 (45) Ms N Macadey 10 5
300 LIBEDWISH (34) Ms 7 95, 10 5
0 NANTCARRY (29) MS 7 95, 10 5
4 SPEAL FLYER (8) M Usber 10 5
4 SPEAL FLYER (8) M Usber 10 5 2.40 ST MODWEN CHASE (LIMITED HANDICAP) (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m - 4 declared -BETTING: 6-4 Mister Oddy, 9-4 Native Mexico, 5-2 Random Assault, 7 3.40 EBF 'NH' NOVICE HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 4f 110yda - 15 declared BETTING: 7-4 highry Moss, 5-2 Beggars Banquet, 9-2 Agistment, 7-1 Share
Options, 34-1 Aut Even, 20-1 Barton Wand, 25-1 others

12.30 Dana Point 1.00 Paperising 1.30 Bold Ac-count 2.00 Kerno Sabo 2.30 Yacht Club 3.00 Westwell Boy 3.30 First Light

GOING: Soft.

Left-hand, undustring course, Run-in of 250yd.

Lowrse is no misor road 2m S of Herdum. ADMISSION: Club

19; Paddock 16 (OAPs 54), CAR PARE: Free.

RUNKERED FIRST TIME: Calder Ring (12.30), Nawtisookey (2.30).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Parts Minstrel (3.00) has been sens
255 rules by 8 Champion from Newmarket, Suffolk.

12.30 MINCE PIE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 

1.00 HOLLY NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 3-40 OLD CANALER (JA) J J O'Nell 5 10 12 P Reven 00 SAMITE (JT) 5 Leedbear 5 10 12 N J Lorison 6 10 12 B F Ryen (5) 05/60 SOUTH COAST STAR (20) J H Johnson 6 10 12 B F Ryen (5) 00P0-06 MY MISSILE (9) R Codeum 6 10 7 10 C Reven 000 TUSHBAR HOUSE (7) 8 Dison 5 10 7 8 C Reven - 15 declared - 14 Section 6 10 7 10 C Reven

2 OUPP-21 KENIO SABO (17) (D) C Parker 4 11 11 D Parker
3 SFO- BRUNNON (286) O Mother 5 11 7
4 2600-64 PONOCENT GEORGE (14) Mass L Septem 7 11 7 A Dobble
5 502-3 HERE COMES HERRE (113) W Storm 4 11 3. M Moloney
6 0050 SEBALA (14) J J O'Nell 5 11 2 PMon 7 10/05-00 FAMILIAR ART (18) (CD) O Molbot 5 16 8 R Quertity
7 10/05-00 FAMILIAR ART (18) (CD) 0 Mothat 5 16 8
8 620349 TASHREEF (16) (CD) J Briett 6 10 5
- 6 declared -
BETTRIC: 7-4 Kemo Sabo, 9-2 Highland Way, 5-1 Here Comes Herbie, 6-1
Paraller Art. 7-1 innocent George, 3-1 Brumon, 10-1 Seguin, 12-1 others
11 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
2.30 CONDITIONALS SELLING HANDICAP HUR-
DLE (CLASS G) £2,500 2m 4f 110yds
5 0-06044 THARSIS (21) (D) W Smen 11 10 7
6 00000-2 DASHMAR (23) Ms L Poler 8 10 7
7 F45-F0P CIRCLE BOY (4) W Storey 9 10 6 R McComits 8 0/00P-SF NAWTINGONEY (27) M Tochumer 6 10 2 C McCommick (5) 8
8 Q/OOP-SF NAWTINOOKEY (27) M Tochumer 6 10 2C McCommack (5) 8
9 000/000- Ner SLOAN (372) J Golde 6 16 0 G Lee 10 POPP TOUGH CHARACTER (14) M Soversby 8 10 0 -M Horrocks (3)
10 POPIP YOUGH CHARACTER (14) M Soversby 8 10 0 - M Horrocks (3)
= 10 declared =
Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Tough Character 9st 7fb
Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Tough Character 9st 7fb
Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Tough Character 9st 7th BETTHNR: 3-2 Blenc Seing, 7-2 Yacht Cleb, 4-1 Deshazer, 6-1 Thursis, 7- 1 Nuertincology, 8-1 Corbies, 12-1 Others
Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Tough Character 9st 7th BETTHNE: 3-1. Blanc Seing, 7-2 Yacht Cleb, 4-1 Dashmar, 8-1 Thumle, 7-1 Newthookey, 8-1 Corbies, 12-1 others  SANTA CLAUS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS
Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Tough Character 9st 7th BETTHNE: 3-1. Blanc Seing, 7-2 Yacht Cleb, 4-1 Dashmar, 8-1 Thumle, 7-1 Newthookey, 8-1 Corbies, 12-1 others  SANTA CLAUS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS
Menimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Tough Character 9st 7th BETTING: 3-1 Blean Seing, 7-2 Yacht Cab, 4-1 Deshauer, 8-1 Thereia, 7-1 Neutrinookey, 8-1 Corbies, 12-1 others  3.00 SANTA CLAUS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3m 1f
Maintum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Tough Character 9st 7th BETTING: 3-1 Blean Seing, 7-2 Yacht Cab, 4-1 Deshauer, 6-1 Thursle, 7- 1 Handinookoy, 8-1 Corbies, 12-1 others  SANTA CLUS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3m 1f  455-363 PAIS MINISTRE, BI R Charpon 11 12 0
Menimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Tough Character 9st 7th BETTING: 3-2 Blenc Seing, 7-2 Yacht Clab, 4-1 Deshaser, 6-1 Thursia, 7- 1 Nurtinookey, 8-1 Corbies, 12-1 others  3.00 SANTA CLAUS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3m 1f  456-363 Pags MiniSTREL Bij R Champon 12: 12 0
Meninum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Tough Character 9st 7th BETTING: 3-1 Blean Seing, 7-2 Yacht Cab, 4-1 Deshamet, 6-1 Thereia, 7-1 Neutrinosity, 8-1 Cortholes, 12-1 others  SANTA CLAUS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 addied 3m 1f  455-383 PAES MINSTREL B) R Champon 11: 12 0
Melinum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Tough Character 9st 7th BETTING: 3-1 Blent Seing, 7-2 Yacht Cleb, 4-1 Desharet, 6-1 Thereis, 7-1 Hantinookoy, 8-1 Corbies, 12-1 others:  3.00 SANTA CLAUS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3m 1f  455-363 PATS MINSTREL BJ R Champon 11.12 0
Melinum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Tough Character 9st 7th BETTING: 3-1 Bleat Seing, 7-2 Yacht Clab, 4-1 Desharer, 6-1 Thursia, 7- 1 Huntinookey, 8-1 Corbies, 12-1 others  3.00 SANTA CLIS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3m 1f  456-363 PAIS MINISTRE, Bij R Champon 11.12 0
Maintum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Tough Character 9st 7th BETTING: 3-1 Blant Saing, 7-2 Yacht Cab, 4-1 Desharet, 6-1 Thereia, 7- 1 Martinoology, 8-1 Cortiese, 12-1 others  3.000 SANTA CLAUS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3m 1f  456-383 PAZS MRSTREL BJ R Champor 11: 12 0
Melinum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Tough Character 9st 7th BETTING: 3-1 Blanc Seing, 7-2 Yacht Clab, 4-1 Desharec, 6-1 Thursle, 7-  1 Handinookoy, 8-1 Corbies, 12-1 others  SANTA CLAUS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS  E) £4,200 added 3m 1f  455-363 PATS MRSTIREL BJ R Champon 11.12 0
Maintern weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Tough Characher 9st 7th BETTING: 3-1 Blean Seing, 7-2 Yacht Cabb, 4-1 Deshieser, 8-1 Thereie, 7-1 Neutrinosity, 8-1 Carloises, 12-1 others   3.00   SANTA CLAUS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3m 1f   455-383 PATS MASTREL 80 R Charpon 11 12 0
Maintern weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Tough Character 9st 7th BETTING: 3-1 Blant Seing, 7-2 Yacht Cab, 4-1 Desharet, 6-1 Thereis, 7-1 Newthookey, 8-1 Corbies, 12-1 Others   3.000   SANTA CLAUS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3m 1f   456-363   PAES MIRSTREL BJ R Chargon 11: 12: 0
Maintum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Tough Character 9st 7th
Maintarn weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Tough Characher 9st 7th BETTING: 3-1 Blean Seing, 7-2 Yacht Cabb, 4-1 Deshamer, 8-1 Thereia, 7-1 Newthoodby, 8-1 Cortholes, 12-1 others   3.00   SANTA CLAUS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 addied 3m 1f   455-383 PASS MASSTREL BJ R Charpon 11 12 0
Meninum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Tough Character 9st 7th BETTING: 3-1 Blant Saing, 7-2 Yacht Cab, 4-1 Deshamet, 6-1 Thereia, 7-1 Neutrinosity, 8-1 Cortiess, 12-1 others  3.000 SANTA CLAUS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3m 1f  456-363 PASS MRSTREL BJ R Chargon 11: 12 0
Maintum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Tough Characher 9st 7th BETTING: 3-1 Blent Seing, 7-2 Yacht Clab, 4-1 Desharet, 6-1 Thereis, 7-1 Martinookoy, 8-1 Corbies, 12-1 others:  3.00 SANTA CLAUS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3rm 1f  1.455-363 PATS MRSTREL BI R Charagon 11.12 0
Maintum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Tough Characher 9st 7th BETTING: 3-1 Blent Seing, 7-2 Yacht Clab, 4-1 Desharet, 6-1 Thereis, 7-1 Martinookoy, 8-1 Corbies, 12-1 others:  3.00 SANTA CLAUS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3rm 1f  1.455-363 PATS MRSTREL BI R Charagon 11.12 0
Maintum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Tough Characher 9st 7th BETTING: 3-1 Blant Saing, 7-2 Yacht Cab, 4-1 Deahaner, 6-1 Thurvis, 7- 1 Martinoology, 8-1 Corbies, 12-1 others  3.00 SANTA CLAUS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3rm 1f  1 455-363 PATS MARSTREL Bif R Charmon 11. 12 0
Meninum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Tough Character 9st 7th BETTING: 3-1 Blant Saing, 7-2 Yacht Cab, 4-1 Deshamet, 6-1 Thereia, 7-1 Neutrinosity, 8-1 Cortiess, 12-1 others  3.000 SANTA CLAUS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3m 1f  456-363 PASS MRSTREL BJ R Chargon 11: 12 0

2.00 ST NICHOLAS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,000 added 2m

53-F2F HIGHLAND WAY (11) (CD) M Tochuraer 8 12 0 ..... A B Santo

3 BOBBY GRANT (23) C Gent 5 11 4 P Neet
3 DEBANNE (28) G Retearts 4 11 4 A Dobble
FREST URST 223 J OHN 411 4 Remitty
HOUSELDPE SPRING J H Johnson 4 11 4 G F Ryen (5) 02- SER BOB (288) W McKeown 4 11 4. SMOOTY ESKINO J Haltene 4 11 4. O TEELIN BAY (34) C Pinter 4 11 4... THE BURGLAR R Golde 4 11 4.... 6 TOP ACE (17) G Winte 4 11 4....

# HYPERION

Stalled 1.15 Threeplay 1.45 Kings Harmony 2.15 Father Dan 2.45 Roffey Spinney 3.15 Greatest GOING: Standard. STALLS: 5f & 1m - outside; rest - inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low in sprints.

Equipment surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

Course is SE of town on B2023. ADMINSSION: Members \$13,

Family Spelusare \$8. CAR PARE: Club \$2; remainder free.

VISORED FREST TIME: Melbourne Princess (1.16).
WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: Mijus (1.45), Absolutelysomating (2.16) & Shanghal LE (2.16) won here on Profay.
LONG-DISTANCE EURNERS: Shoutsides (3.16) has been seen 270 miles by M Johnston from Meddelson, North Yorkshire; Madrian (1.45) sent 268 miles by J Berry from Cockerham, Lancashire.

11.45 ATROPOS HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV I) £1,700 added 1m 2f (AW) 

– 14 declared – BETTING: 7-2 Heriogain Walk, 7-1 Beliess Daughler, Bel alck, 7aujyar, Boston Ten Party, 12-1 others 12.15 SARAH CHAPMAN 21ST BDAY MAIDEN STAKES (D) (DIV I) £3,500 2YO 1m (AW)

BETTINE: 5-4 Night Sceptro, 6-1 Hever Golf Nover, 7-1 Kingsdown Trix, Zimiri, 8-1 Warp Drive, Pasticke, 10-1 Princess Sarara, 12-1 others

12.45 HOTSPUR AMATEURS LIMITED STAKES (CLASS G) £2,000 added 1m 4f (AW) 

- 12 declared -BETTING: 4-1 Cross Tolk, 5-1 Can Can Charlie, Spalled, 6-1 Zahid, 7-1 Chez Cytolon, Sheraz, 8-1 Carrolle Marc, 12-1 others 

056020 FIGUA (34) (8F) J L Hans 8 0 J J L Hans 8 0 S42030 RELBOURNE PRINCESS (17) R Watsker 7 10 F Norton 4 V — B doctored — BETTWG: 9-4 Throughly, 3-1 Figits, 4-1 Enger To Picess, 5-1 Heaven Miss, 6-1 Melitutine Princess, 8-1 Whisper Low 1.45 LE REVE HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,000 added 6f (AW) 2.15 ATROPOS HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV II) BETTING: 3-1, Father Dan, 7-2 Ab oler League, 12-1 officers 2.45 SARAH CHAPMAN 21ST BIRTHDAY MAID-EN STAKES (D) (DIV I) £3,500 2YO 1m (AW) O HEAVENLY HAND (35) A Moore 89... ROS LOCHLASS (24) 6 Woods 89. - 10 Sectored -BETTNIC: 9-4 Portey Spinory, 7-2 Sourz, 6-1 Festher Bed, 7-1 Chymn, Lochions, 8-1 Tresor Mitchell, Around Fore Alliss, 12-1 others 3.15 (QUALIFIER) (CLASS D) £4,200 7F (AW)

### sport

# Found wanting for a touch of fortune

Phil Shaw looks at Frank Clark's forlorn attempt to live with the legacy of Brian Clough as Nottingham Forest's manager

Barely a month has passed since Frank Clark was telling people that Nottingham Forest needed a few wins before the takeover of the club was completed. Otherwise, he added with a wry smile, someone else would be spending the money put up by the successful consortium.

Clark's resignation, after he apparently failed to secure assurances about his future as manager, demonstrates once again that many a true word is spoken in jest. Yet although be leaves Forest proposing up the Premiership and without a win since the season's opening day, any rounded assessment of his three and a balf year tenture at the City Ground should not

judge him too harshly.
For it was Clark who, while bardly the people's choice to succeed Brian Clough, immediately restored Forest to the top flight. More than that, he led them to third place in the Premiership the next season. Then, after other English clubs had fallen by the wayside, they reached the last eight of the

Uefa Cup less than I year ago. Strange as it may seem in the light of yesterday's developments. Clark was being seriously considered at that time by the Football Association as a successor to Terry Venables as the rest of his career. The board, ironically, reacted by pledging to keep bim well into the next century.

They had surprised many people, not least Clark, by plucking him from his pinstriped desk job as managing di-rector of Leyton Orient. The too-good-to-go-down Forest team had just been relegated. Clough had retired, and two of their prime assets, Roy Keane

Frank Clark fact-file # 3 Sep 194% Bon Highted, Co Dubers, 1968: Filirs Cup winner with Newcastle May 197%: Joined Forest ether 368 League appearances for Newcastle, 1979: League Chempionship medel, 1979: European Cup winners' medel, July 1979: Sundariant ensement manager, August 1980: Forest cestators manager, May 296%: Orient manager. 2960; Promotion to old Third Divis

1998: Finish third and set Premier League record of 25 unbesten metches.

and Nigel Clough, were intent

Clark used the revenue from their transfers to fund the signings of a raw young striker from Southend and an unsung centre-back from Millwall. Stan Collymore and Colin Cooper not only belped Forest back up but went on to represent Engmanager of England. Stuart land alongside Pearce, whom Pearce publicly announced that the new incumbent bad per-Clark ought to stay at Forest for suaded to stick with the club.

Two other transactions, bringing David Phillips and Lars Bohinen to the East Midlands, seemed to confirm Clark as a shrewd manipulator of the market. The impression was cemented by the initial success of Bryan Roy but, like the Dutchman's impact, Clark's touch deserted him.

As the Nottingham Evening Post put it in an unsigned editorial yesterday: "If a manager lives and dies by his results and by his dealings in the transfer market, then Frank Clark's departure from the City Ground is overthe... A manager can only be allowed so many mistakes when it comes to buying and selling. His decision to resign might be viewed as the right one."

Clark's predecessor used to mock his own knack of buying strikers who could not score. As Peter Ward, Justin Fashanu and Ian Wallace were to the Clough era, so Roy, Andrea Silenzi, Kevin Campbell and Dean Saunders came to symbolise Clark's

increasingly patchy record.

The Post pointed out that, in financial terms, Campbell's 11 goals had so far cost Forest £227,000 each; Slenzi's two set them back £900,000 apiece; and Saunders' two a mere £750,000 each. The Croatian defender Nikola Jerkan has also failed to make an impact, prompting the paper to call Clark's judgment remarkably flawed."

injury but it did not help decide whether there had been negli-

gence. He said he had adopted

the stance that an "ordinary,

reasonable" spectator would

take as to whether the tackle

was negligent or reckless - or

whether there had been an er-

ror of judgment or lapse of skill.

Wales policeman who was the

match assessor producing a re-

port on the abilities of the lines-

men and referee, told the judge

in his view the tackle was among

the worst three he had ever seen.

He said Cornforth's right foot

Bobby Gould, the Wales

was two feet above the ball.

Walter Williams, a South



End game: Frank Clark directs Forest's play for what proved to be the last time in Tuesday's defeat at Liverpool

faces and bad an unsettling ef-

With hindsight, bowever, the key moment in Clark's reign was the sale of Collymore to Liverpool. The player felt he had outgrown the club and was not popular in the dressing-room. Yet, without his goals, Forest could not operate their counterattacking system to the same effect. Even their limited success in Europe was achieved large-

ly through backs-to-the-wall defence.

Clark's cause was not belped, either, by a serious injury to Steve Stone, another who progressed to international status under his wing, or by Pearce's evident staleness after the exersions of Euro 96. Like Jason Lee's ridiculed hairstyle, Forest's fortunes went pineapple shaped. From being

the team who established the Premiership's longest unbeaten run (25 games), they now hold the record for matches without a win

To his credit, Clark never used the impasse over the buyout of Forest as an excuse for their failings on the pitch, though it clearly tied his hands in terms of bringing in fresh

fect on confidence. In what proved to be his final match, Tuesday's 4-2 defeat at Liverpool, Collymore twisted the knife by scoring twice. After-wards, Clark likened his own and the club's situation to being in limbo.

Perhaps, though, they are merely fulfilling their role in the

scheme of things prior to Clough's unprecedented and unrepeatable success: that of the modestly resourced provincial club destined to flit between the top two divisions. Unless the new owners are extremely judicious, or lucky in their choice of successor, Clark's sojourn at Forest may come to be seen as the last of the good times.

# £250,000 award for foul that ruined career

The former Stockport player Brian McCord was yesterday awarded an estimated £250,000 damages by a High Court judge for a tackle which broke his leg and ended bis career.

It is the first time a judge has awarded compensation to a professional player for injuries

major impact oo all sport. Mr Justice Ian Kennedy found that the then Swansea City captain, John Cornforth, had made an error when be challenged McCord for the ball during Swansca's game against Stockport in March, 1993.

Cord's right leg ruled him out of the game and he is now study- been made of the severity of the

ing to become a physiotherapist.
"I am delighted with the judgment," McCord said. "I have been on income support since the accident and 1 was 100 per cent sure taking this action was the right thing to do."

### **Clubs back restructuring**

Peace broke out yesterday as nine-man body, were put to a lower division clubs backed plans for the restructuring of the Foothall League.

Representatives of 69 of the 72 Nationwide League clubs met for an extraordinary general meeting in central London to discuss the new set-up. Some Second and Third Division clubs had been concerned over the power that some larger First Division clubs might wield.

However, when the measures which will see the present sixman bound of directors replaced by an independently chaired McCord's solicitor, John Eng-

land, said the judgment was a received during a game - a landmark because there was move which is likely to cause a ... no system for players to obtain compensation for injuries received during games. He said: "It is a very important judgment which will have great ramifica-tions throughout all professional sports. I believe it is time for the sporting bodies to devise some system of compensation ithout redress to the courts."

was confined to single figures.

clubs so that they can meet the

1999 deadline for ground safe-

ister, yesterday reaffirmed the

Government's commitment to

deliver the Taylor Report rec-

ommendations on the 1989 Hills-

borough disaster in three years'

the Football Trust's cash crisis.

time as another report detailed

Tain Sproat, the Sports Min-

ty improvements.

The judge said much had tor's box with Williams, said in his opinion Cornforth intended to strike the player not the ball. "It was one of the worst tackles

I have ever seen," Gould said. The judge said he had listened to the evidence of Gould vote, it is understood that dissent and Williams, and to the evidence of Comforth that the The Government have urged tackle did carry a risk of serious the Premier League to give fiinjury if there was any misnancial support to lower division

idgment of the timing.
He said he could understand the many witnesses who said Comforth was playing the man and not the ball but "that was not my conclusion", particularly having heard about his good reputation. However, the judge ruled that the tackle was "inconsistent" with taking reasonable care and it was one occasion when his skill "descrited him".

### Argentina

All is not well in Argentina, where the national team are singularly failing to dominate South America's World Cup qualifying group—despite the absence of their great rivals. Brazil, who as bolders are not. required to qualify.

Their fallen, former captain Diego Maradona, says Argen-tina will fail to qualify for the World Cup after their dismal-1-1 draw at home to Chile last has yet to be signed. The about the second times at least the second times at least the second times at least the second times. The second times at least times at least times at least times are in a second times at least times at least times are in a second times at least times are in a second times at least times trained move," he said.

Passarella's hard-line approach cinded much-publicised bans on players baving long hair and wearing earrings. Sunday's drawleft Argentina fifth in the nine-team South American group, from which the top four qualify for France 98. Colombia, Paraguay, Ecuador and Uruguay currently fill the

### qualifying positions. Albania

A key figure in Argentina's individual goal against Bel-glory days, Mario Kempes, has gium at the 1994 World Cup glory days, Mario Kempes, has become the first foreign coach in Albanian football history. The man whose goals helped his country to World Cap glo-ry in 1978 is the new coach of the Albanian First Division chub. Lushnia.



determination - but the feam: knwist loss place in the league, did not produce one single, well-despite signing three fearign trained move," he said.

players earlier in the year - two Maradona also hit out at Brazilians and a Nigerian.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia have reached the final of the Asian Cup they play the host nation, the United Arab Emirates, in Abu Dhabi tomorrow-despite the absence of the man who put his country on the world football map at USA 94. Sandi preparations for the .

tournament were rocked when

their top forward Secod Al-Owairan - who scored a superb and two other players were sus-pended by the trafficient football association. The trio were said. to have been found at a party. drinking and mixing with women. Both indulgences are banned in Saudi Arabia under Kempes has agreed to a. the Islamic sharin law.

The Sandis reached size in fourth Asian Cup final parties ossion with a 4-3 peraturation whose out wis over from after a goalless draw in extra time on Wednesday. They won the competition in 1984 and 1988. and were beaten by Japan in the 1992 final

Saudi Arabia are the clear favourites somorrow ever though they are meeting the host nation, who hear Kiwaii 14. Wednesday to their just final in the things.

Despite their team's fine form this season, it seems that not all Bancelona fans are enam oured with their distinguished son. Chib employees have had had to whitewash over grafitu aimed at Robson and the club board on the walls of the Non

"Robson go home," read a comment written in English. The former England manager was also advised to retire to an old people's home, and was compared unfavouarbly to Barcelota zoos famous albino gorilla, "Snowflake"

"More Catalans and less trash," said another piece of the graffiti. The arrival of mimezous foreigners at Barcelona has led to the exclusion of local players such as Albeit Fer-rer, who has been approached by Real Madrid

Rupert Metcalf

# Harriers set to pull the crowds

Non-League notebook RUPERT METCALF

Although police restrictions and the oddities of the fixture computer mean that Christ-mas boliday derbies are out of fashion in the Football League, that is not the case in the non-League world, where some big crowds and highly-charged matches are guaranteed during the next few days.

Kidderminster Harriers, 11 points clear at the top of the GM Vauxhall Conference, may well be watched by two attendances of over 3,000 in their Diamonds tomorrow and in the Worcestershire derby at home to Bromsgrove Rovers on Boxing Day. Rushden will also be attracting the fans in large numbers on Thursday, when they travel to their Northamptonshire rivals Kettering Town.

Boxing Day derbies in the Dr Martens League include the leaders, Gresley Rovers, making the short trip to Burton Al-bion, and Cheltenham Town playing at Gloucester City.

The UniBond League lead-

ers, Leek Town, are under new management, having promoted Peter Ward from assistant man-ager following Phil Wilson's departure to Northwich Victoria. Another UniBond managerial appointment sees Gordon Raynor, formerly in

charge at Guiseley and Brad-ford Park Avenue, succeed Alan Tinsley at Lancaster City. In the Icis League, Fred Cal-

laghan, once in charge at Brentford, has taken over in a caretaker capacity at Carshalton Athletic in place of Tony Jennings, the former England semiprofessional team manager. Brian Sparrow's second spell as manager of the Dr Martens club Crawley Town lasted just 13 days - the former Crystal Palace defender missed two training sessions and was unable to travel to a fixture at Merthyr Tydfil during his brief spell in charge.

For the last five years, the hardy band of non-League followers known as groundhoppers have descended on the northeast of England every Easter for the "Northern Hop", watching three or four games per day over the holiday period. That event bas come to an end - they have run out of new grounds - but the groundhoppers can now bead west instead.

The Westward Developments Devon League are putting on an "Easter Hop" every year for the rest of the decade, with fixtures on 28 and 29 March next year at Alphington. Newton Abbot Spurs, Teignmouth, Buckfastleigh, Budleigh Salterton, Newton St Cyres and Willand. Further details from the Devon League secretary, Phil Hiscox: 01392

# Ruddles County Riddles.

No. 13. Pub Challenge. For Peter Barasworthy it of the doors, lay the prize,

wen the 1996 Hartfordshire Pub Quiz Championskip ofter six greelling rounds.

But his victory was by no meene fieel. He had yet

to alaim the prize.

He was placed in the bar of the Queen's Head Pale

two doors, each leading to different rooms. Bebind one

is Westcott. There were

was a dream come tree. He had a voucker for unlimited access to the love of his life-

> Reddles Cocaty. The chelleage was set.

He did not keen behied which door (they were

marked 1 and 2) lay which prize. Beside each door

atood a barmen to help him decide which door to choose.

However, the satch was that one of the barmen had bean instructed to lie, but Peter did not know which.

Peter stapped forward, asked one of the mon o question, and upon hearing

strade threagh door 1 to claim his voucher.

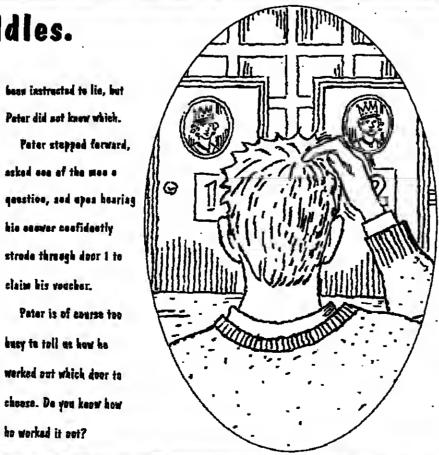
his season confidently

Pater is of course too easy to toll as how he

choose. De you keen how

to worked it out?

-I wed exects need a room in the sect of the part of t



### **Cotton to select extra Lions**

Rugby Union

Fran Cotton, the Lions manager, intends taking a massive squad of 35 players on next year's tour of South Africa. five more than the traditional

touring party.

Despite a 13-match programme, Cotton wants extra back-up on the spot in specialist positions rather than flying players out in injury emergencies. It is essential we are able to field sides of Test-match strength throughout the tour," said Cotton, who has just returned from

a 10-day fact-finding trip to South Africa. "Our intention is to match the World Cup holders in every facet of the game." Another break with tradition is that the squad will be named at the end of March, rather than on the mid-March weekend

when the Five Nations ends. Phil de Gianville is set to return after a thigh injury ruled him out of last Saturday's England match against Argentina. He has been named in the Bath side for the start of their defence of the Pilkington Cup against Lon-don Irish at the Recreation Ground tomorrow.

De Gianville's England colleague, stand-off Mike Catt. misses the match. He has chest and shoulder injuries and expects to be sidelined for three weeks.

Richard Butland comes in. Referees are still talking with senior officials of the Welsh Rugby Union in a last-ditch attem to avert a boycott of fixtures this

Some leading matches look likely to go ahead, despite the strike by the Welsh Society of Rugby Union Referees over pay, but the programme still faces decimation with the dispute far from being resolved.

### Tibbs dismasted in heavy seas

STUART ALEXANDER

A new mast and rigging was being shipped to New Zealand last night after a yacht in the amateur-crewed BT Challenge was dismasted on the second leg of

the round the world race. Chris Tibbs' Concert saw the 85-foot mast break above the first "spreaders", the cross trees through which the wire rigging runs to hold up the mast. None of the 14 crew was injured, and

some sail. The yacht is 1500 miles south

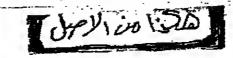
and east of the Chatham Is-

lands, and 420 miles from its destination, Wellington, where it should arrive by 31 December. It has taken on 120 gallons of diesel from competitor Motorola and plans to take on more fuel from Time & Tide today.

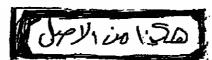
Tibbs cut away the top section to prevent it doing any further damage, and saved the middle section and the sails. The with 20 feet of the mast re- accident occurred in near gale-

maining it should be possible for force winds and heavy seas, and the crew to fix a jury rig and set the fact that the yacht was on starboard tack may have accelerated the fatigue.

All the other yachts have been checking for similar problems, and third-placed Simon Walker (Toshiba) has found some damage. In addition. 3Com has had to refit its forestay since it failed. Global Teamwork is doing the same and bas backstay deterioration and a broken strand in the lower starboard shroud. Last night. Heath Insured also reported a



sport



BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS Rugby league's transformation has inspired many volumes. Dave Hadfield casts his eye over them

No doubt about the publishing event of the year in Wigan. At the shop there that shifts more rugby league literature than any other in the country, the definitive account of the local cinb's unforgettable last 15

years is outselling even Soul Sur-vivors: The Wigan Casino Story. The Best Years of Our Lives (Mainstream, £15.99) was a story aching to be told and Paul Wilson, who chronicled it for papers in the town hefore graduating to this one, was ideally placed to tell it. He does so with great style and insight, so much so that it stands companison with the account of the only comparable feat, Larry Writer's magnificent Never Before, Never Again

# Read all about it: the really stupid game If Wigan have been the great running story of the last decade even-handed recounting of a tangame and the best of its her-

and a half, then the theme of the last year and a half has been Super League. Two books tell another compelling tale from radically different perspectives. Simon Kelner's To Jerusalem

and Back (Macmillan, £14.99) is a heartfelt testament from a league traditionalist which is at its best reflecting on the past rather than reading the runes of the future.

For the blow-by-blow account Never Before, Never Again about the equally dominant St George side of the 50s and 60s.

Never Before, Never Again of how in all happened, read Mike Colman's Super League. The Inside Story (Ironbark,

gled tale, especially considering that the author is a News Ltd journalist. It was written at halftime in the legal battle, with the Australian Rugby League still ahead on the scoreboard, so an updated edition is being pre-pared. In the meantime, this one

is quite revealing enough.

The Rugby League's one-time archivist, Robert Gate, is another with strong views on events over the last couple of years. His foreword to The

itage have been sold down the river. The book itself is an up-date of his admirable 1984 tome, completely re-illustrated and thoroughly timely in view of the continuing dislocation of the tradition of Ashes series.

Super League also rears its head in my own latest foray into editing and writing XIII Worlds (Mainstream, £14.99), but so does much else. This is less a factual account of rugby league's fortunes around the globe than Struggle for the Ashes II (R E a sniff at the atmosphere of the Gate, £12.99) is a battlecry for game in its various settings. I be-

Edgar's musings on his beloved France alone. Hard core Francophiles might also try to track down Jacques-of-all-trades Their guide to the grounds, the Louis Bonnery's Le Rugby a XIII splendidly-titled I Wouldn't Start Louis Bonnery's Le Rugby a XIII (Cano & Franck, 200F, about £30). It is expensive at current excharige rates, although not much more than a round of drinks in the environs of the

surprisingly, in French, but it is a veritable treasure-trove. One of the heartening features of the publishing scene

Charlety Stadium, and it is, not

League Publications. The Sin Bin (LLP, £5.95) is amusing enough to qualify as that hardy annual, the ideal stocking-filler. from Here (LLP, £5) is also well worth having, although the London Broncos' move from The

Valley has already rendered

that section out of date. The mighty Australian mag-azine, Rugby League Week, cel-ebrated its quarter century last year and Rugby League Week: 25 Sensational Years (Harper over the last few years has been Sports, £16.50) is probably the

lieve - but then I would - that the vigorous activity of London it is worth buying for Harry League Publications. The Sin events during that period events during that period looked at the time.

Also from Australia, League of a Nation (ABC, £13.50) is a stimulating collection of writings on the game, often from surprising viewpoints. Take this for an opening paragraph, for in-stance: "Football by which the writer, Sydney-style, means rugby league] is stupid. It's really really stupid. It's nuerly stupid. How can I be so sure? Because that's exactly why the people who go to watch football like it. If it was any less stupid they

wouldn't watch it." Discuss.

The indefatigable compilers of Rothmans Rugby League Yearbook had a problem this year: what to do with that best-forgotten, misbegotten fi-nal winter season. Their solution has been to produce a slimmer than usual volume to cover the 1996 season (Headline. £16.99) with the magnum opus on the first Super League season to follow in the new

To some extent, the equally tenacious chaps at League Express have beaten them to it. bringing out their Super League '96 (League Publications, £12.99), covering the season up to and including the ill-lated-tour of New Zealand, in time for Christmas. It was a rush job and in places that shows - but a mighty effort all the same.

# Faldo opts for military precision

ANDY FARRELL

There is not much doubt what tention for next year. And in doing everything he can to realise that amhition, he is even making sure his eyes see it the

Asked for his highlight of flexibility." 1996, the US Masters champion said: "Obviously, winning the US Open." He postscripted his correction with: "That's given the game away."

Faldo has already won three Open championships to go with his three US Masters green jackets and has made no secret of his desire to add the next nost prestigious crown. He will have played next year's US Open venue, Congressional, near Washington, several times hefore teeing up on 12 June. The 1997 season for Faldo

started last week at his Florida base at Lake Nona. An intensive week on the practice range with his coach, David Lead- wish I could turn back the clock better, was matched with an and set out on a professional caequally strenuous work-out reer with all the knowledge I regime in the gym. He has also have accumulated in 20 years on army SWAT personnel.

Combat golfer, that's me," Faldo said. "Your eyes can be out of alignment hut you can do exercises to line them up. It's mainly for putting and it could explain why I was regularly missing putts short left."

day landmark next summer, one'.'

James Hickman hroke his own

terday. The 20-year-old, who

reached the final of the 200m

in Atlanta, took 0.26sec off his

100m mark in the 25-metre

pool, clocking 53.30 in his heat

to better the time he set in

Gelsenkirchen in Fehruary.

British short course record on the opening day of the Winter Championships in Sheffield yes-

**Record for Hickman** 

Faldo has not lost any of his hunger for success. "I pushed hard at 30 for the Open and at 40 I'm still pushing hard for the US Open. I'm not going to sit is the focus of Nick Faldo's at- hack. I would hate to think that

I could have tried harder. "That's why I'm brutalising myself in the gym. I'm really working hard and enjoying it. I don't want to get higger, it's all

After Christmas at home, Faldo starts his season in California hefore journeying to Australia for the Johnny Walker Classic at the end of January. Then it is the US Tour all the way until after the US Open.

Discovering Open champions of the future is what the Nick Faldo Junior Series will be hoping to do. Promising amateurs of 17 years of age and under from Great Britain and Ireland will play in five regional order of merits to qualify for a grand final at the Forest of Arden. Faldo, who is initially under-

writing the venture with £100,000, said: "Sometimes I een an eye doctor who helps tour. The next best thing is to pass on all that information to the next generation.

"Starting something like this can only be a benefit. Sport is being recognised more as a career. When I told my careers adviser that I wanted to be a golfer, he said only one in 10 thousand Despite an important birth- make it. I said: Okay, I'll be that

Nigel Coupe, on Europe K, rides high in the Christmas Cracker Accumulator event at Olympia yesterday

# Whitaker enjoying purple patch

### Equestrianism

**GENEVIEVE MURPHY** reports from Olympia

John Whitaker gave the Virtuthe 200m freestyle final with the al Village team their third win of the Olympia Show Jumping fastest time. The Ipswich swimmer, troubled by a back injury sustained in a recent car acci-Championships yesterday afternoon, when he rode Welham dept. clocked 2min 00,99sec. to win the P & O Events Christ-Susan Rolph, a double gold medallist at last week's Euromas Cracker Accumulator by a comfortable margin of almost pean Short-course Championships in Germany, will not be five seconds. He defeated the Essex rider, John Renwick, on fined for her withdrawal even Roundstreet Charlie.

though she will compete for her Whitaker bad won here on French club, Clichy, on Sunday. The Amateur Swimming Asso-Wednesday night with Grannusch, a few hours after Nick ciation has effectively granted Karen Pickering celehrated her 25th hirthday by reaching the death of her grandmother. Skelton (also one of the purple-jacketed V.V. team) scored

on Quick Star. They are part of a sponsorship deal (which also includes Michael Whitak-Comex," Fisher said.

with him, but I still didn't realise are held, has suffered a major setback with the news that Silk Cut will no longer be sponsorer and Gcoff Billington) that is worth more than £Im to the four riders.

contestant to gain a clear-cut victory yesterday when he rode eight year-old Renville to win the Beeton Rumford Christmas Pudding Stakes, defeating William Funnell on Comex by 2.63sec.

Fisher bought Renville in the Netherlands four years ago and the bay gelding, who has won about 20 contests this year, has so far done everything that has been asked of him. "He's naturally quick over a fence so you

The mare Bowriver Queen, who won the closing Grand Prix at the Horse of the Year Show James Fisher was another in October, will be Fisher's mount in tomorrow's Volvo World Cup qualifier.

John Whitaker on Welham

and Nick Skelton on Dollar Girl (both with their new Virtual Village prefixes) are bound to start at shorter prices on The Tote. Olympia, celebrating its 25th

anniversary, has a total of 19 sponsors and the show (by far the best of the British indoor fixtures) goes from strength to strength. By contrast Hickstead, can expect to do a good time where the major outdoor shows

ing the Derby meeting.

This year BBC television transmitted six hours and 20 minutes of the action from Hickstead, with the Silk Cut Derby as its principal attraction. It is hoped that lottery money or a new sponsor will plug the gap left by the departing company, whose contribution in-cluded £135,000 in prize-money

for the Derby alone. Joanna Jackson, winner of three gold medals at this year's Paralympic Games, received the British Equestrian Writers' Trophy having been voted eques-trian personality of the year. She

was a member of the victorious British equestrian team in Atlanta as well as winning the two individual contests in her grade.

Jackson, a single arm amputee, is helping to run the vil-lage post office at Cullompton in Devon for her mother and grandfather, who are both ill. But she took a day off yesterday to come to Olympia and re-

day to come to Olympia and re-ceive her award.

GLYMPIA SHOW JUNPING CHAMPIONESHIPS:
P & O Events Christmas Gracker Acomsula-ture 1 Vitual Videga Weiham I Whesiaes. Gib 3Gpt. 41.49sec; 2 Roundstrace Charle I/ Ren-vel., Gib 36. 48.4; 3 Dyleno GUS (I, Nichaugia-March, Swil 36, 47.98. Beath Theologia: March, Swil 36, 47.98. Beath Final-Gib Clear, 48.10; 2 Corner (W Funnel, Gib clear, 50.73; 3 Jepp Penne Beath of Amory IR Pesson, By Oter, 51.78. British Equation Whi-ers' awards: BEWA Tropby (septestrian per-agently of the year!; J. Jackson, Vivien Butchelor Tropby (outstanding young rider): E Taylor, Lizzie Buddies Tropby (major con-tributor to equestrian sport): C Schofield.

### McGahan to leave Leeds

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

Hugh McGahan is to leave his joh as football manager at Leeds to return to his home-

town of Auckland. McGahan, who was appointed as the right-hand man to the club's coach, Dean Bell, 18 months ago, is to become the marketing manager for Super League in New Zealand.

It has been a tough decision for me to make, but I feel that it is a great opportunity for me to help the game in my native New Zealand," said McGahan, whose partnership with Bell failed to produce the

goods during a first Super League season at Headingley. "He will be sadly missed by everyone at Headingley, not least by myself," Bell said. "He has been a hig support to me during what have been extremely difficult times and his contribution to the club should not he underestimated."

There will be no decision on how the management structure at Leeds will be re-organised until after the departure of Mo-Gahan, a former New Zealand captain, early in the New Year. Also on the move is one of the key men at the Rugby League's headquarters, the coaching and Academy exec-

utive John Kear. Kear, the man who also from the danger of relegation during a period on loan to them last season, is joining Sheffield Eagles as football ex-

He will link up there with Eagles new coach, Phil Larder, with whom he has worked at international level. "I have

had job offers in the past, but this one was too good to turn down." Kear said. "Phil and I are determined to take the club to the top." The League's chief execu-

tive, Maurice Lindsay, paid tribute to Kear's work in establishing the Academy as a thriving sector within the game. A decision on Kear's successor is being delayed until the British Amateur Rugby League Association responds to proposals for unification, as this will have a major bearing on the future scope of the job.

The British and French

board members of the Paris club are to meet tomorrow in an attempt to resolve the question of who will run it next season.

### Vegas date for Lewis

Oliver McCall was conspicuous by his absence at a news conference in New York on Wednesday to officially announce his World Boxing Council heavyweight title fight with Britain's Lennox Lewis on 7 February in Las Vegas. McCall was involved in re-

ports of vandalism and disorderly conduct in Nashville, Tennessee, on Sunday, hut Lewis's handlers on both sides of the Atlantic, Main Events and London's Panos Eliandes, suspected there could be problems after a New Jersey judge removed Don King's right to promote the fight for extending the date heyond the dead-

Lewis said: "You have to think about McCall's behaviour. Hopefully they can control him chough to be there on 7 Fehruary. They were able to control him when he fought in London last time. What's stopping them this time?"

The former champion's promoters have thought about a replacement opponent should McCall not make the Las Vegas date for any reason. It is belicyed that Croatia's European title holder Zeljko Mavrovic is waiting in the wings.

### TODAY'S FIXTURES Football

7.45 unless stated NATIONWIDE POOTBALL LEAGUE FRIST DIVISION Southend v Birminghers

THIRD DIVISION Colchester v Cambridge Utd ... Northempton v Hereford ...... CM VALDUIALL CONFERENCE

Slough v Welling
Northwich v Southport
ICIS LEASUE Premier Division: Purfeet AMBOURY OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

Rugby League

FRIENDLY: Batley v Villeneuve (7.30). Other sports STRIANISM: Olympia Cham ington, London).

Vensungton, Lundoni.
POOL: Mosconi Cup Mine-Ball Challenge: Eu-rope v USA (Dagenham).
SWINAWING: ASA National Winter Champion-ships (Sheffield).

TODAY'S NUMBER

25,000

The number of pounds that Falkirk FC have been fined for fielding an ineligible player John Clark, in a game against St Mirren earlier this season. They have also been ordered to replay the match.

### Athletics

Ethiopian runners will compete in the Bupa County Durham International Cross-country next week after the International Amateur Athletic Federation resolved a cash row. The Ethiopian Athletics Federation had imposed a ben on their athletes attending meetings because they

Basketball ESBSKOPTOMENS Milk Cleveland 99 New Jersey 83; Indiana 102 Orlando 95 (v/b) Detroit 112 New York 78; LA Lakers 111 Milwoodee 105; Deswer 95 Sacu-mento 79; Proteint 114 Washington 107; Sest-te 105 Portland 102; Golden State 123

Cricket

Glamorgan have targeted the former Der-byshire fast bowler Frank Griffith as sup-port for their Pakistan Test player Wagar Younis, Griffith, 28, was released by Der-byshire at the end of the summer. Adam Bacher, a 23-year-old nephew of United Cricket Board of South Africa managing director Ali Bacher, has been called up for South Africa's first two home Tests against India. He replaces Jonty Rhodes.

MONTH PROCESS. STENDARD (to tour Scotth Africa and West Indias): 5 Tendulfer (capt), A Kumble (vice-capt), M Adhenudide, P Dharmani, R Drawid, D Genesh, S Gengly, D Johnson, S Saba Natin, VKS Lauren, N Monga, V Prasad, V Raju, W Raman, V Ratnora, J Smeth.

V rogu, Y returney Y returney, 3 streets. TOUR NATCH (Wangerstax, first day of foort-Victoria 354 (G Vimpeni 133, D Berry 50; N MeLeon 5-48). TOUR MATCH (Hobart: first day of fourt-Paleistan 259 (Streind Aindr 80, Mushtaq Ahmed 65; Shaun Young 7-64); Tesmena 73 for 1 SHEFFELD SHEELD (Float day of four): Bris-bane: New South Wales 190 (5 Waugh 55; A Bichel 6-56); Queensland 69 for 2.

**Football** 

Hibemian have tailed in a first attempt to bring the Clyde striker Eddie Annand to Easter Road, but their caretaker manto Easter Hose, but their calestar hish-ager Jocky Scott is ready to increase his offer to land the 23-year-old as he tries to clinch the Hibs Job on a per-manent basis. Armand has scored 16 gools this season for Clyde. Crost International Darko Butorovic has signed a four-year contract with the Portuguese champions Porto, a club

SPORTING DIGEST a transfer fee of \$300,000 (£1.87,000) to Crostia's Hadjuk Split.

Three days after being banned for ax European Cup games for head-butting Porto's Jorge Costa a month ago, the Milan striker George Weah made a pub-ic apology through Fifa. The former Brazil coach, Tele Santana, who has been out of soccer for almost a year because of ill-health, will be the

new coach of Palmeiras. Sentana, who coached Brazil at the 1982 and 1986 World Cups, was forced to abandon his job with São Paulo early this year because of health problems.

CALES OF HEART PROPERTY AND ARTHONY DE FOOTBALL LEAGUE Re-Arranged detec The 11 Feb: York v Wal-50 (from 19 Nov), The 11 Mar: Chester v Torquey (from 4 Jan). INTERNATIONAL FRENDLY (Manages): Brazi 1 (Ronaldo 67) Bosnis Q. WIEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: World Cup Group Sit: Maita () Spain 3. Coca-Coia

Group Str. Maita 0 Spain 3. Coca-Cots Fourth-round replay: Southernoon 3 Odord 2: Stockport 2. West Harn 1. FA Carling Presidenting: Shetfield Wednesdey 1 Marchester United 1. Nationwide Football League Fiest Division: West Brom 5 Norwich 1. Sected Division: Malwalf of Liston 1. Bell's Society League First Division: Airdne 0 St. Johnstone 1. Bell's Scottlish League Presider Division: Postponeed. Durismaline v tish League First Division: Airdne O St. Johnstone 1. Bea'rs Scottish League Presiler Division: Postponed: Durismaine v 
Celte, FA Youth Cup second-trund replay: 
Queen's Park Rangers 1. Bristol Rovers O. 
Speiding Chailengie Cup quarter-final: 
Morecombe 3 Stalybridgs 3 (act). Or Martinea 
League Premier Division: Newport ATC 1. 
Chattenham E. Southern Division: St. 
Leonards Stamenoft 3 Derford 1. Unibond 
League Cup third round: Krowskey 2 Great 
Herwood 2. Uniffilia First Division Cop secand round: Farsley 1 Stockshridge 2. Wiestralegue Gup third round: Krowskey 2 Great 
Foton Olymington 5. Knethern Counties EastLeague Cup third nound: Heil Road 1 Pokcrotton Olymington 5. Knethern Counties EastLeague Cup third round: Heil Road 1 Pokcrotton Olymington 5. Knethern Counties Existing 
Frest Division: Postponed: St Heiers v Holker Old Boys. Jessen Eastern League Premier Division: Postponed: St Heiers v Holker Old Boys. Jessen Eastern League Premier Division: Bushon V Carle. Peeting 
League Premier Division: Leads 3 Manchesser Unid 3 ar Heilfar Town); Transver 4 
Nottingam Forest 2. First Division: Blackpool of Country 0; Middirestrough 4 Pon Vele1; Sunderson 1, Prest Post, 1 (at Dustain Chy). 
Postponed: Aston Villa v Shethed Und. Sec
post Division: Wandragen 0 Repheton 1, York

1; Sunderson J. Heston 1 (at Durtam cury)
Postponat. Aston Villa v Sheffled Utd. Socand Division: Wresham O Robertson 1; York
2 Shrewbury 1. League Cup Broup Two:
Bernstey 2 Scarborough O. Avoa Insurance
Combination. Hirst Division: Bournemouth
2 Queen's Park Rangers 5; Brighton 2
Portsmouth 2; Bright Revers O Todenham 2

(at Yasa Town); Morwich 1 Chaissa 2; Swansea 1 Chariton 2. Lengue of Walest Caerass 0 Connah's Quay 2; Cernees Bay 1 Rhyl 1; Conwy 0 Ponthmadog 1; Elbow Vale 4 Cermenthan 0; Holywell 1 Caerasion 4; Walshpool 4 Briton Feny 0. Dutch Lengue: Feyencord 1 Roda JC Kerlonde 0; Forums Stitund 2 NAC Brade 2, Italians Cup Quarter-films econd leg: International Chais (Abu Dhabbit United Arab Erritaries 1 Kiwest 0; Saudi Arabis 0 kan 0 (Saudi Arabis win 4-3 on pans).

Australia will host the Presidents Cup between the United States and the Rest of the World in 1998, the Australasian PGA Tour said yesterday. The venue for the tournament has yet to be chosen. ice hockey

NHL: Buffato 5 Tampa Bay 3; NY Rengars 4 Los Angeles 0; Dallas, 3 Chicago 2 to/0; Colorado 4 Edmonton 4 (o/0), New Jersey 2 Vancouver 1. Deroit 3 Colgaty 3 (o/0). **Motor racing** 

Italian teem Minardi have signed Japan-ese driver Uliyo Katayama for the 1997 seeson. Katayama, 33, who had been sesson. Katayama, 33, who had been with Britzin's Tyrrell team since 1993, takes up his new role on 7 January. Rugby Union

Richard Turner, 28, the former All Black back-rower, has signed for Millan. EMERGING WALES SQUAD (v USA Engles, Rockey Paracks, Newport; 1. January): M Taylor (Swansse), M Back (Swansse), M Lawis (Bridgerd), & Evans (Lisnelli), N Devise (Lisnell; capt), N Bookyer (Lionéli), & Wyett (Portypidd), J Louis (Portypidd), P John Portypidd), J Louis (Cardill), & Contor (Newport), H Harries, (Patiguis, R Shaw (Bridgerd), N Eynon (Portypidd), S John (Lisnelli), & Jenklyne (Swarsse), R Williams (Newth), L Musiche (Cardill), J Johns (Cardill), C Quisnell (Nuthroord), P Arnold (Swarsset), A Globs (Lisnell), N Thomas (Bath), C Wyett (Lisnell), S Moore (Swarsset). EMERGING WALES SQUAD (v USA Eagles,

Alberto Tomba, the triple Olympic cham-pion, has pulled out of his home World Cup giant salom meeting in lay on Sun-day. He was injured during training on a gacier in October and feats a recurrence on the demanding Alta Badla course.

Skiing

Snooker Paul Hunter has been awarded the sec ond and final wild card to challenge the world's top 16 for the Benson and Hedges Masters title at Wembley next February. LEADING PROFESSIONAL RANGONES (Botteh unless stated): 1.S.Hendry, 2.J.Higgins, 3.R.O'Sul-lean, 4.M.J.Williams, B.K.Doherly, 6.J.Parrott, 7.N.Bond, 8.A.Robeloux (Carl), 9.P.Ebdon, 1.D. A.McManus.

Steve Pateman, 31, from Derby, won the bronze medal in the 115kg class at the amateur World Championships in Tokyo. Pateman beat westlers from France, Russia, Puerto Rico. Austria and Taiwan before losing to a Japanese opponent in the semi-final, in the team

A Hamburg court yesterday distributed a civil suit filed by Moruca Seles against a civil suit filed by Moruca Seles against a civil suit filed by Moruca Seles against

a chi sur neo by Montas Seets against the German Tenns Federation over her 1993 stabbing. Seles was setting £9.3 milion in damages for lost moome af-ter the attack, blaming the German fed-eration for lack of security. The court dismissed the case and ordered Seles to pay costs. Seles said the attack, which

event, Great Britain best Bulgaria but sidelined her for 27 months, had gw-lost to Mongolia in the second round. sidelined her for 27 months, had gw-Jane Wood, the British No 7 from Middiesex, best Emily Bond of Glouces-tershire 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 in the final of the

ETIMA Christmas tournament at Queen's Club, London, yesterday.

Note: Columba Bows, CHAMPIONSHIPS (Foriday), Roce of Annes Bows, CHAMPIONSHIPS (Foriday), Roce of Clab), by A. Seron (Brai), 7-8 8-4. Boys under-18 singles fourth mount: F. Garmine (Chile) by S. Dickson (ES) 6-2 6-3. M. Leseno (Colimba) by D. Dickson (ES) 6-2 6-4. Girts under-18 singles second round: I. Osteron (US) by J. Onouthury (ES) 7-8 6-3.

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# Pearce poised to take Forest job

Cricket

DEREK PRINGLE

Zimbabwe 376

England 48-1

reports from Bulawayo

One of the features of this tour

has been the coach David

Lloyd's remorseless search for the positive aspects of England's play. As this has so far cen-

tred on the sub-atomic, a session

bere, an over there, England's

coach would have needed some-

thing akin to an electron mi-

croscope to find anything good

about yesterday's rain short-

ened day, especially after Andy

Flower's century has made Zim-

babwe's position in this first

Test a virtually impregnable one. It was a resolute performance from the elder Flower, who with

the help of a useful tail, took Zim-

babwe's total to 376. A score that

brought differing responses from

the rival camps, with Lloyd feel-

ing it was: "A boous and man-

ageable on a smashing batting

"A reasonable enough total to put

England under pressure, with the leggic [Paul Strang] beginning to

do things as the rough on the

face, however, neither view can

be totally discounted, although

England's is by far the more op-

timistic considering their recent

Once again there appeared

little in it for the seamers, and

not a great deal more for Eng-

land's two spinners, as Zimhabwe unhurrically added to

their overnight score. What

On such a slow playing sur-

itch," while Flower felt it to be:

CLIVE WHITE

hoard's decision to offer the job to Pearce, who has often expressed a desire to go into management when his playing days are over. Irving Korn, the chairman, said that Clark's assistant, Alan Hill, would assume

Tr's a wise decision by the board and I'm certain the players will get a lift from it," Clark said. "If he decides to accept I'm sure he'll get things going. I can't believe any Nottingham Forest fans will be disappointed by the

They may, however, have

**England ground** 

down by Flower

the left-hander's off-stump.

Flower's vigilance eventually ended soon after lunch after he

reverse swept the Middlesex spinner for three to bring up his

hundred: a daring wristy shot made almost regulation by the

squash and hockey uphringing

that is the norm for most white

It was the 28-year-old Flower's third Test century, and

one he claimed gave him an ex-

tra frisson, coming as it did

against England, where he spent

ast summer coaching at Epsom

College and playing for East-bourne in the Sussex League.

Unless a call to county cricket

intervenes, he will be taking up

summer residency in the Parks and the challenge of coaching

Oxford University. That estab-

lishment is not renowned for its

tolerance of modern vulgarities

such as the reverse sweep. Mind you the way England -

Robert Croft excepted - have

bowled generally, it was difficult

to find a hatsman under stress

in any position, and for the most

part. Zimbabwe's tail-enders

looked as untroubled as Flower.

As in the first two sessions on

Wednesday, England were far

too short, particularly to Paul Strang, who gave an Alan Knott-like exhibition of upper

cuts over the slips, as he and Flower added 79 for the seventh

Strang, who has a Test cen-

who opened the day's pro-ceedings with Darren Gough,

was twice whacked for four as

he strayed from Wednesday's

land looked totally bereft of

It was hereabouts that Eng-

impeccable length.

Much of Clark's troubles stemmed from the sale of Stan Collymore to Liverpool for

With charcoal shaded thun-

derclouds building dramatical-

ly, Heath Streak played-on to

Mulially, while Tufnell, at last

settling into a rhythm, ac-

counted for Flower, who, in attempting a deft sweep to leg, gloved the ball up high enough

for Alec Stewart to complete a fine diving catch. Nick Knight-

similarly smartly pouched Hen-ry Olonga at silly point a few

As the air filled with the dis-

tinctive smell of rain peculiar to

the drier parts of Africa, Eng-

land began their innings in fad-

ing light, a handicap made up

for by the absence of Eddo

Brandes, Zimbabwe's mercur-

ial swing bowler, who had gone

over on his ankle the day before

While seam prevailed, England suffered few alarms but

when the home side brought on

a second Strang, Paul, for the first, the seamer Bryan, he im-

mediately got his wrist-spinners

to grip. With the home side des-

perate for a wicket before the

rain set in, Strang - normally a

looping leg-spinner - pushed

one through to catch Atherton

back on his crease, unable to get

most indisputable of Ibws but it

gave the home side the fillip

they had wanted just a ball be-

fore tea. As Atherton trudged

off to the sole applause of a

huge thunderclap, rain began to

fall as both play and England's

riposte were suspended for the

England and Pakistan have

added their support to the idea

of a world championship of

Test cricket, a blueprint for

which was unveiled by Matthew

Engel, the editor of Wisden, in

rest of the day.

It was not the perhaps the

halls later.

the Test.

Clark himself backed the mixed feelings about Clark's de- - a transfer which he did his best to resist - and it was ironic that that player's brace of goals in the 4-2 defeat of Forest at Anfield on Tuesday should pre-cipitate Clark's resignation. which was reductantly accepted at an emergency board meeting on Wednesday night. It left the club three points adrift at the

> a Premier League record. "You could say the Liverpool game was the final straw," Clark said, describing his decision to

FIRST TEST: Atherton falls early as his tourists make a damp start to their pursuit of Zimbabwe's imposing total

day of the season 16 games ago

timents of Ray Harford, who recently chose to quit as manager of Blackburn Rovers for the good of the club, since when the ancastrians' fortunes have revived - to Forest's cost.

"I'd just about run out of

time save for the turkey. Clark

leaves with his dignity and reputation intact and his name has already been put forward as a front-runner for the Manchester City job. He said he had received some "speculative offers" and was keen to get back into management.

As for Pearce, few young men could go into management with greater backing. A bigger crowd favourite it is hard to imagine, be it at club or in-ternational level. "If he doesn't accept we'll think again," Korn said. "But I believe that Stuart, being the type of person he is, will accept the challenge."

United offered **Batistuta** for £13m

ALAN NIXON

Manchester United are being offered the Argentine World Cup player Gabriel Batistura for a little matter of £13nl.

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, has been sounded out by agents working for the Fiorentina forward, who headed the Scrie A scoring charts last season. Batistuta wants to come to England at the end of this season, and United will moni-

tor his progress. The Fevenoord chairman, Jorien van den Herik, is to contact Celtic today to discuss "the conditions" for having Pierre van Hoondonk. The 27year-old Dutch striker's rift with the club has apparently

reached breaking point.
Two more French players was to join Arsenal. The full-back Jerome Bonnissel wants to leave the Spanish club Deportivo La Coruna to work with Arsend

Alan Shearer, David Seaman Gary Neville, Peter Schmeichel and Steve McManaman have been selected for a squad representing Europe to play Africa in Lisbon next month in a match to promote antiracism. The squad is selected by Germany's coach Berti Vogts and the former Dutch coach, Rinus Michels.

Wenger, while the international midfielder Claude Makelélé is unhappy at Nantes, claiming Arsenal and Chelsea have both expressed an interest.

Southampton have suffered a major blow with news that their defender Jason Dodd must undergo a knee operation to repair a damaged cartilage. The former England Under-21 Internation al has been suffering knee troir ble for the past two months. West Bromwich Albion are

set to strengthen their injury-hit squad hy signing the Notts County central defender Shaun Murphy for £500.000. Bolton Wanderers yesterday

completed the signing of the ex-perienced Sheffield Wednesday midfield player. John Sheridan. They have agreed to pay £180,000 for the Republic of Ireland international and Wednesday will receive a further £25,000 if Bolton are promoted. Juninho is doubtful for Middiesbrough's match at Blackburn tomorrow. The Brazilian has not fully recovered from an ankle injury he received at Aston Villa three weeks ago. Emerson will definitely play after coming through a reserve game.

Newcastle's new home on

the moor, page 6

Football

Stuart Pearce, the former England captain, was last night offered the thankless task of trying to rescue Nottingham Forest from their perilous posivon at the foot of the Pre-miership table. Following the resignation of Frank Clark late the previous evening, the 34year-old Forest skipper has been given 24 hours to decide whether he will accept the role of caretaker manager. No one administrative duties.

cision to go. The success he brought to the club, upon succeeding Brian Clough as man-ager three and a half years ago - itself an unenviable task - was beyond the wildest dreams of most rational Forest supporters but it has dissolved this season against a background of imprudent spending by Clark and a takeover battle which has rumbled on and on, leaving him

£8.5m in the summer of last year

financially hamstrung.

bottom of the table without a league win since the opening

go as the lowest point in his

signs in that display. I didn't want to hang around until they [the players] lost faith in me. That would have been a disaster for the club." His decision echoed the sen-

things to do, so I've done the ultimate," Clark said. "I'm resigning in the hope that it will

career. "I saw certain warning I didn't want to hang on until they [the new owners] came in. There could have been another five or six games played by then and it might have been too late. It's vital now that the team gets a couple of wins. If they do it will transform the picture." Both rival consortiums had

offered their public support for Clark but rumours to the contrary about his position had persisted, making Clark uneasy. Only this week he said that he felt like a turkey with Christmas approaching; everyone was readying themselves for a good

Michael Atherton, the tourists' captain, falls leg-before to the leg-spinner Paul Strang

# Zimbabwe's fears over bowling are unfounded

always going to be a struggle for them to get hack into this match, but at least it was a performance the bowlers had got out of their system.

But, far from it, for their bowling on the second morning was every bit as bad and had ensured that England are going to have an enormous fight to save this first Test match against

At the team meeting the night before the match one gathers that the Zimbabwean batting was minutely examined. Strengths and weaknesses were identified and a plan of campaign was devised for each of the opposing batsmen. The bowlers were left in no doubt as to what they should do.

Yet, in the event, they were, until Robert Croft began to performance which led one to bowl so well on the first afternoon, all of them unable to produce. After the first day's play up to it.

teast as bad as it had been on the first morning. Darren Gough was all over the place and not that fast either. One ball was short and wide and square cut, then followed a half-volley which was driven and after that came a couple the batsman bad no need to play a stroke at.

Alan Mullally was dreadful. In his first four overs the batsmen only had to play nine balls out of the 24. Chris Silverwood's line was better but he might do to them, could scarcely believe their luck.

It was the most depressing the inescapable conclusion that

not bowl as well as he had done on Wednesday. At the other end, Phil Tufnell did not, to start with, pitch the ball up enough. He should have been trying to bring the batsmen on to the front foot to drive.

The last ball of the day before rain brought things to a halt was another sad reflection. The Zimbabwean leg spinner, Paul Strang, was always going to be the danger man for England and Mike Atherton, of all people, made a bad mistake.

He played back and not forward to a leg spinner who was pushing the ball through and howling to a full length and he was trapped leg-before. One had hoped that India's Anil Kumble had taught that lesson to England's baismen.

Atherton's dismissal was a senous psychological blow and it looks increasingly as if the re-sult of this match lies in Strang's spinning fingers.

### never looked like getting the ball past the bat and the Zimbab-weans who had gone into the match a trifle apprehensive at what England's faster bowlers

Second day; Zimbabwe won toss ZEMBABWE - First lonings (Overnight: 256 for 6) th Flower & Stewart & Tuthet 365 min, 331 bells, 12 fours) P A Strang c. Turnel to Saverwood (108 mm, 69 balls, 7 fours) H H Streak b Mullary \_\_\_ (70 min, 60 bolls, 2 form) B C Strang not out ....

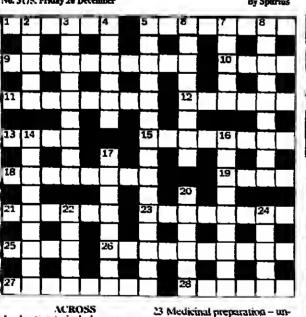
H K Clongs o Knight & Turinett (2 min, 4 balls) ctras (84, w3, rb13) Total (535 mic, 127,5 overs) .. Fell (cont): 7-331 (P Strang), 8-372 (Streek), 9-376 (A Plowed), 10-376 (Okonga).

(45 min, 2 bels, 1 four)

(nt5, w1) (63-13-1 4-0-18-0 5-1-18-0 4-0-15-0 2-0-10-0 5-0-17-0; swarrood 18-5-53-3 (nt5) (4-0-25-0 6-1-25-12-3-0-15-1-13-1); com 44-15-77-8 (5-1-18-0 11-4-22-1 12-6-7-2 3-4-0 3-3-0 5-0-18-0; tumen 26-5-4-76-2 (nt3) (3-0-80-4-0-19-0 8-2-19-0 4-0-18-0 7-5-2-12-3)

To batt 1A J Stewars, N Hissair, G P Thorpe, J P Convey, R O B Croft, O Gough, A O Muliatly, C E W Streewood, P C R Tutnell. Bowley Streek 8-2-1-0 (m2); 3 Street 5-0-21-0; P Street 1.5-0-6-1; Glorge 1 0-10-0 (m1) (one spet each). Progress: Second day: Tea 43-1 (Kright 29) 13.5 overs. Rain and had light provinced

### October and drew immediate turn there was, came from ideas and only a smart catch by bowler's footholes and Flower praise from Ali Bacher, the Phil Tufnell over his head. spent a gritty 59 minutes in the brought Strang's cameo to an end managing director of the Unitnineties, as Phil Tufnell probed as he chipped a slower full-toss and sifted the rough outside from Chris Silverwood to mid-on. Africa. ed Cricket Board of South THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD No. 3175, Friday 20 December or before the start of the sec-ond they will surely have had an-other meeting to plot the course of events when Zimbabwe con-tinued their innings HENRY BLOFELD England's awful bowling on the first morning meant that it was tinued their innings. As it was, the bowling was at



batting form and the fact that they will have to hat last on a also played some fine aggressive

pitch already taking spin, albeit shots off the spinners and Croft.

Auction to include represenlative specimen (o)
Moist quality found in some French clarets, perhaps? (8) Sort of round taking the form of a conference, we

III Refusal to join American inlelligence (4) 11 Singer about to be seen in

troni of posh car (8) 12 Had meal offered by hotel ~ દેક મહાયાની (6) 13 Febenal work brought back

trum Oberammereau (4) 15 Offers of superior accommodation evolving rude gasp. perhaps (8)

18 Irritating sore needing time w improve? (8) 19 American's behind outmoded expression of contempt (4) 21 Workforce required by a He-

fundean island (6)

Album Road Wattern

wisely mention having opened tube? (8) Principal river in Germany (4) 26 Accepted practice in political assembly (10)

27 Mean to have a single chest-

nut? (3-5)

28 Violent pangs occasioned by wrestling moves, we're told (6) 2 Scene of contest will be in Square, naturally (5) Crime concealed by atten-

dont in minister's residence (9) Prepare to draw turther impiration from old well? (6) Situation in which we're about to take flight? 19, 6) Ceremonies offered by Eng-

lish divine in angelic fashion? 7 Material from Northern Ire-Lind? No. French (5)

S Not exactly sitting tenants (9) 14 Line of armoured cars? (4-5) to Pilot's instrument you need to modify, inserting date (9) 17 Untruthful person having right to join Catholic church

20 Sheet bearing advertising material in Strine requiring clarification (6) The Bird origin illy found in Switzerland (5) 24 Nobody's education started

after twelve (2-3) C Published by Newspaper Publishing PS C. I Canada Squue, Carary Whart, Lorden E14 5DL, and praised at Marter Colour Print, St. Back rough nembers from Unions Newspapers, 01988 suppris-Pate Merty Piec Recoursed was managed with the Roy Office

Bulawayo scoreboard

7.5-2-12-2). Progress: First day: 60: 71 min. 16.3 overs. 100: 11.4 min. 27.4 overs. Landin: 109-1 (G Flower 34, Campbell 70) 30 overs. 150: 177 min. 42.5 overs. 200: 244 min. 60 overs. New 200-3. Oversylonn 33. A Flower 311 60 overs. New best gatern after 84 overs at 242-5. 250: 338 min. 95 overs. Close: 256-6 (A Flower 53, P Storing (I) 92 overs. Second day: 300: 419 min. 106.4 overs. Lunch: 337-7 (A Flower 94, Street, 31 123 overs. 350: 507 min. 131 overs. Inviting closes 1.50pm. Complete St. 74 min. 72 bals, 8 burs. 1903-1-11040-902-1-405-1-11. 200-2020-1-11; Googh 25-4-67-1. 200-341 mm.313 bals, 10 burs.

EVGLAND - First innings N V Knight not out ... (57 min, 43 balls, 4 fours)\*
"M A Atheren Bir b P Strang" (57 min, 43 bels, 2 fours) Extras (rb3) .... Total (for 1, 57 min, 13.5 overs) Fait: 1-48 (Atherton). \_

Unipleas: R.S. Durve and J.D. Roberson, Ty replay ampire: R.S. Tiffin, Match reference Harumant Sagn.

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